

Piano Lamp Buyer's Guide

Whether you buy a piano lamp from us over at <http://www.BuyPianoLamps.com>, or from one of our competitors, we hope you find this free buyer's guide both interesting and helpful.

In a nutshell, a piano lamp sheds light on your music while you play piano. Overhead lights are an insufficient way to illuminate your music. A piano lamp, however, is specially designed to light up the piano keys and music so you can seamlessly create music without struggling to see the notes.

The History of Piano Lamps

The first piano was built in the 1700s, long before we had electrical lighting. People would play the piano at night and in auditoriums by candlelight. This lighting was dangerous and inadequate but it was the only kind available. The glare from the candle actually caused eye strain and minimized visibility. As a result, the first piano lamp was created when an inventor placed a cover on the back of the candle to reduce the glare from its glow.

After the birth of electricity, a light bulb was used in a lamp rather than a candle. There was still, however, a problem with glare in the eyes of the player. As a result, a cover was placed on the front of the light bulb on the piano lamp to get rid of the glare. This glare-free piano lamp made it possible to play piano in the evenings.

Next, fancy piano lamps called candelabras were developed. Originally, candelabras used candles. The design was updated to include multi-light arrangements that fit perfectly atop grand pianos. These types of elaborate light fixtures became a trademark of famous pianist Liberace. Smaller candelabras and piano lamps are used on studio, upright and console pianos.

Most piano lamps are placed at the top or center of the piano. Over time, several vertical lamps raised from the floor were created. These piano lamps display light from many angles and heights. All piano lamps are now hooded to reduce glare in the eyes of the piano player while still lighting up the keys and music. Today, piano lamps are not just functional – they are also beautiful and decorative accessories.

The Beauty of Antique Piano Lamps

Antique piano lamps had a distinctive shape so they would not cause shadows on the music. The lamp was narrow and long so it would shine directly on the music sheets. In centuries gone by, candles were used in antique piano lamps. With the advent of electricity, often bulbs were used in these lamps.

Clips were also used on antique piano lamps to make them more portable and versatile. Different styles were created to use for various types of pianos. Today people often use antique brass finish piano lamps as desk or reading lamps because modern piano lamps give off much more light. Other people purchase authentic antique piano lamps to complete the look of their antique piano and bench.

Basic Types of Modern Piano Lamps

Piano lamps come in an array of sizes, styles and shapes based on your piano and needs. Models include desk, balance arm, floor, grand piano and clip on piano lamps. They may also have features such as adjustable height or a dimmer switch. Common finishes include polished brass, antique brass, black, nickel, crystal, marble and more.

While the first piano lamps used candles, today piano lamps are either electric or battery powered. An electric piano lamp typically uses one to two 40 or 60 watt bulbs. Sleek, modern piano lamps use LED or florescent bulbs for longer life. House of Troy is one of the more reputable brands of piano lamps. Piano lamps range in cost from approximately \$50 to \$400 depending on the design and quality you desire.

Balance arm piano lamps are often used for grand pianos. These lamps have a long arm intersected by a column. One end of the arm has a light fixture and the other is weighted down by a counterweight. Balance arm piano lamps use fluorescent, halogen or incandescent bulbs and are weighed down with materials such as elegant marble or shiny brass.

Piano Lamps for Different Types of Pianos

The first thing to consider when buying a piano lamp is what style piano you are playing. An upright piano has vertical strings and comes in several heights. A spinet piano is about 36" to 38" inches high. A large spinet piano is typically 40" to 42" high. Console pianos are about 45" high. A full size upright piano is

approximately 50" to 56" in height.

A grand piano has strings that lie on a horizontal plane. Grand pianos are longer and can be anywhere from 4'6", which is a baby grand, to 9' long, which is a concert grand piano.

Traditional House of Troy piano desk lamps are often used for upright pianos and spinet pianos. Grand pianos, however, are much too large and work better with balance arm piano lamps. Clip-on and floor lamps are used with all types of pianos and also work quite well with digital pianos.

The piano lamp shade should be about 3 to 6 inches above the sheet music. The light is supposed to shine directly on the music notes and not in your eyes. Room lighting is typically insufficient. A piano lamp, however, clearly illuminates the music so you can enjoy optimum performance.

Piano lamps are both practical and decorative. A simple clip-on lamp does the job and goes anywhere with you, while a brass piano desk lamp also adds an attractive touch to your piano room. Once you find a piano lamp suitable for your type of piano, there are limitless styles and prices based on your budget and style.

Why Choose Certain Types of Piano Lamps?

Your piano and preference determine the type of piano lamp you purchase. Everyone has a different taste so let's consider the various piano lamp options:

Piano desk lamps are a classic way to light up your piano keys and music. They are attractive, classic and do the job well. These traditional piano lamps come in various finishes including nickel, brass and black to match any décor. They also do excellent double duty as desk lamps.

Piano floor lamps are ideal for musical environments where more than one player performs. These large piano lamps are bigger and offer a wide range of motion to illuminate music throughout the room or performance venue. Piano floor lamps are also a lovely way to light up a living room or dining room without overhead lighting.

Grand piano lamps typically clip on to a piano music rack or music stand which saves space. Portable grand piano lamps are also perfect for reading, computer work and any other up-close tasks that require targeted light.

LED piano lamps use LED lighting for longer life making them reliable for long term piano playing, reading, office work and entrance halls.

Balance arm piano lamps have adjustable arms so you can move the light above and out of the way of the music. Balance arm piano lamps also work well in busy offices because you can easily move the light away from any growing piles of paper on your desk. With different shade sizes and arm lengths, there is a balance arm piano lamp to accommodate most needs.

Why Are House of Troy Piano Lamps So Popular?

For over 40 years, House of Troy has been manufacturing handcrafted piano lamps. These high-end and reliable piano lamps are made in Hyde Park, Vermont. House of Troy pays close attention to every detail from the design to the finish and offers the greatest variety of styles. Many pianists use House of Troy piano lamps because they know they are durable, reputable and attractive.

What Do the Pros Say About Piano Lamps?

Famous pianists such as Elton John, Billy Joel and Sheryl Crow are frequently seen with a decorative piano lamp perched above their keyboard and music. Liberace (1919-1987) was a world renowned pianist known for his fancy piano candelabras. In fact, Liberace was nicknamed the "Candelabra Kid" and then the "Candelabra King" during the course of his life as a pianist.

In the *New York Times* obituary penned by famous obit writer, Hugh Messingberg said about Liberace, "The first sign that Liberace had embarked upon a road along which reticence would never ride came when he placed a candelabra on his piano. At this, the dam of discretion appeared to burst: first came a white tail suit, followed by stage patter about his mother and his philosophy of life, then a gold lamé jacket and a diamond-studded tailcoat."

A piano lamp can light up an entire room because it enables the player to see the music better and play their best. Pianist Ray Charles (1930-2004) stated, "What is a soul? It's like electricity – we don't really know what it is, but it's a force that can light a room."

The right piano lamp effectively illuminates your keys and music to significantly improve your overall performance.