

JodyJazz Jet Tenor Sax Mouthpiece

Incredible Dynamics, Astounding Altissimo

When I reviewed the Giant tenor saxophone mouthpiece from JodyJazz in the May 2014 issue of *DownBeat*, I was impressed with its somewhat unique design, and even more so with how it played. So I was excited when given the opportunity to review JodyJazz's new Jet tenor mouthpiece. I had been hearing great things about the company's alto model of the Jet, which has been available for a little more than a year.

From the outside, the Jet resembles JodyJazz's HR model, but the inside is another story. I could see by the extreme baffle and thin rails that it was going to have some serious kick. I was sent size 8 and 9 tip openings, and I decided the 8 was more to my liking and closer to the tip opening that I'm most accustomed to on tenor. I chose a Rico Select Jazz 2H reed and used the Rico H ligature that comes with the Jet (cap is included also).

The Jet was a complete blast to play from the very start. After an adjustment period of about five minutes or so, I felt extremely comfortable on it. The Jet had a bit more brightness than I was used to. But while playing it over the next week, I found it was easy to control.

The dynamic range of the Jet is incredible. This piece can really scream, and I was pleasantly surprised at its ability to maintain a big, full sound when I backed way off and played softly. The Jet articulates extremely well with little effort all up and down the range of the horn. I have to make special mention of how it performs upstairs. The Jet's altissimo range is astounding. It controls with ease all the way up to double F# (that's as high as I go), with no dead spots anywhere along the way. The pitch is awesome as well, almost like it's on rails.

The Jet feels silky-smooth and packs enough punch to cut through guitars,

keyboards, loud trumpet players and the like with very little effort in all ranges. Also surprising was the great response and articulation at the bottom end of the horn. Many of the "screamer" tenor pieces I've tried give up a lot down low. That is not at all the case with the Jet.

I had several opportunities to use the Jet on gigs, and it performed beautifully. One was a horn section session for a blues recording. Pitch was locked in and dynamics were very easy to control. Blend with the section was fantastic at all volume levels. I recorded a couple of short solos on the same gig—one laid-back and one that required substantial blast and "raunch." The Jet totally delivered in both cases.

The JodyJazz Jet for tenor sax will appeal to a lot of players. For those who desire more power and presence when playing rock/r&b/salsa, it really makes a difference. Despite its power, I would not describe the Jet as a "paint peeler." Its sound doesn't thin out or disappear when you back off the volume. The \$189 MSRP makes the Jet an exceptional value for all it has to offer—comfort, smooth and consistent response top to bottom, great articulation and an altissimo that flat-out kicks butt.

—Steve Eisen

Ordering info: jodyjazz.com

