

JodyJazz DV and HR* Saxophone Mouthpieces:

Free-Blowing and Fat

Two new sets of precision-crafted, hand-finished mouthpieces from JodyJazz give saxophonists the airflow and the versatility they need to cover a wide range of tones and styles.

The company's gold-plated DV range for tenor and alto is designed for contemporary players, as well as straightahead players who tend to favor mouthpieces that are on the bright side. Featuring a futuristic-looking "secondary window" (an open slot) under the reed table, the DVs utilize a proprietary CNC facing technology that puts the perfect curve inside the mouthpiece and minimizes the potential for dead spots in the sound.

During a test session that involved multiple horns and medium reeds, the most inspiring were the DV alto mouthpieces. Bright, full of harmonics and brassy without being shrill, the DV altos projected effortlessly in all ranges, with an especially wailing altissimo. It was easy to play quiet and low with a fat, full sound. Intonation was spot-on. The DV tenor models offered nearly as much responsiveness and produced a husky, barrel-chested tone that could be manipulated in a number of directions via chops alone. With one of these and a good reed, you might even forget you're using a metal piece.

JodyJazz's hard-rubber HR* (Star) series, featuring round and smooth chambers, provoke thoughts of the old rubber Otto Link and Meyer mouthpieces. Aimed at pros and students looking for a vintage jazz sound, the HR* mouthpieces produced a warm, dark tone and blew freely and evenly across the traditional range of the horn. On tenor and alto, the HR* series encouraged an almost legit tone that proved suitable for juicy ballads and blended nicely in a big band sax section. Extremely responsive, the HR* lets you tongue fast and accurately through uptempo passages without choking up in the throat. Some players may like the feel of the HR*s' extra girth, but it did take some time to get used to.



DV mouthpiece

—Ed Enright

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