

## JodyJazz Alto and Baritone DV Mouthpieces: Gold-Plated Tonal Flexibility

JodyJazz continues to produce new models of gold-plated brass mouthpieces that give serious saxophone players further options for great sound and response. The JodyJazz DV NY alto #5 and DV baritone #8, released early this year, bring metal professional sax mouthpieces to new levels of efficiency and tonal flexibility.

Featuring an especially deep chamber design, the DV NY alto #5 is the company's warmest sounding alto mouthpiece, according to Jody Espina, owner of JodyJazz. Espina said that initially he was uncertain whether to go forward with manufacturing the #5 alto, but was encouraged and inspired by the input of star alto players Loren Stillman and Naoki Iwane. "Both of these guys played old metal [Otto] Links on their altos, which are dark mouthpieces," Espina said. "They tried my prototype that I had been monkeying around with, and both of them said to keep going with it. There are not that many people looking for metal alto mouthpieces right now. You practically have to push it into people's hands to get them to try it."

Surprisingly, the DV NY alto #5 plays even warmer than Espina's hard rubber alto models, and it's versatile enough to accommodate players in many contexts, from a loud rock show to a quiet little art gallery performance. If the DV NY alto #5 suits your chops, this could be the only mouthpiece you need to bring out on any type of gig. Like all of the

company's DV NY models, the new piece is designed for straightahead players and is free-blowing.

The DV #8 baritone mouthpiece offers more power and added ability to play soft and sweet, compared with previous JodyJazz models. Featuring a high baffle and requiring no spoilers, it makes a good choice for contemporary or straightahead players who are used to the company's ESP line of baritone mouthpieces but want more control and flexibility with their sound. The DV #8 is slightly wider in the mouth and more closely resembles a classic Otto Link piece.

The DV #8 baritone is a heavy mouthpiece that responds with quick attack and a colorful brassy tone that's rich in harmonics. Its "secondary window"—a feature on all of JodyJazz's DV and DV NY models—allows the reed to vibrate more efficiently and adds a nice woody darkness in the middle and lower registers. If you're a saxophonist who plays a JodyJazz DV on alto or tenor, the new baritone piece will feel familiar to your chops and give you the same huge projection you're used to. Espina noted that the new #8 will ultimately make it easier for a DV-devoted doubler to quickly switch over to bari when the big horn is called upon.

The DV #8 baritone mouthpiece has a suggested retail price of \$550. The DV NY #5 alto mouthpiece lists for \$450. All of JodyJazz's precision-crafted DV and DV NY mouthpieces



come with a deluxe Rovner (dark) ligature, cap, mouthpiece pouch and wood cylinder case. —Ed Enright

» Ordering info: [jodyjazz.com](http://jodyjazz.com)

## Rico Reserve Challenge: Guaranteed Quality

Behind every great saxophonist lays a great reed. In an effort to convince sax players about the quality of Rico Reserve reeds, D'Addario is offering customers a double-or-nothing deal: Buy a box of Reserve B $\flat$  Clarinet or Alto Sax reeds, and receive another box free (if you like them) or get your money back (if you don't).

The promotion—dubbed the Rico Reserve Challenge—has been something of a coming-out party for Rico's new premium line. The Reserves made their debut in stores just over a year ago, but this is the first time the company has tried to push reed sales with a money-back guarantee.

"We want to demonstrate to people the consistency of these reeds," said Robert Polan, Rico product manager.

The Reserve products are the first fruits of parent company D'Addario's \$10 million investment in Rico's infrastructure following its purchase of the reed maker from The Music Group in April 2004. Among other changes, D'Addario purchased a fleet of new



reed-making machines from French reed company Glotin. Using diamond cutter technology to increase manufacturing precision and automated blanking machines to measure reed thickness on the factory floor, the company is hoping that its technology enhancements will translate into customer

satisfaction.

The Reserve products are fashioned from lower-internode cane tilled on the company's plantations in France and Argentina. Like bamboo, the cane used in reeds is divided along its stalk into distinct sections. "Our research showed us that the bottom section of the cane stock has the highest density," Polan said. "Higher density cane yields a more consistently playing reed."

In addition, Rico's Reed Vitalizer seals each box of Reserve reeds, regulating humidity to ensure that reeds will not warp or crack. As for the sound, Polan describes "a warm-sounding, resonant" tone for the reeds. "They allow players to blow into them and achieve the sound they want," he said.

To participate in the Rico Reserve Challenge, purchase a box of Rico Reserve B $\flat$  Clarinet or Alto Sax reeds before April 30 and visit [reservechallenge.com](http://reservechallenge.com) to receive your complimentary box or refund. —Eric Bishop

» Ordering info: [ricoreeds.com](http://ricoreeds.com)