



# // Instrument News & Reviews

David Gallant checks out the latest jazz-related instrument and technology launches



## Jody Jazz DV Brass sax mouthpiece

You can't help but admire Jody Espina of Jody Jazz: his total commitment to developing and refining the design of the metal mouthpiece to achieve the ultimate in sound quality and projection borders on the fanatical. And judging by the roster of stellar players that now blow through the JJ mouthpiece, there's no question that all those hours of soul searching and R&D have been worth the midnight oil.

darker and more sweet and smooth than a standard metal mouthpiece (ie: our Brancher). To our ear, the JJ didn't seem to have as much punch in the middle as our Brancher, but it more than makes up for this in the 'sotto voce' with a beautifully controlled sound – and there's not a hint of the shrillness usually associated with metal. OK, it doesn't come cheap. But then, neither do silk sheets! The mouthpiece comes with a Rico 'H' ligature and shaped cap.

For more info go to [www.jodyjazz.com](http://www.jodyjazz.com)



## Odyssey Premier Range solid silver bodied flute

Regular readers of this page will already be aware of how impressed we have been with the new Odyssey Premier range. They bear little, if any relation to the brand's earlier incarnations and have really set a benchmark for intermediate instruments at a surprisingly competitive price point.

The all-silver bodied flute is yet another example of the Premiere combination of superb craftsmanship coupled with exceptional finishing. From the head joint that slips smoothly onto the body, to the evenness of the keywork and the 'click' on the pads, this flute just feels good the moment you take it out of its case – the ergonomics are right – you feel like you want to play it. And the G-sharp key is very nicely set up too.

With a standard lip plate, the flute has a very positive action. The top end is very clean and very

responsive – top D to G being really positive and there is an easy facility across the break. Both the intonation and dynamics are excellent. And we really liked the darker, more mellow tones that this flute produces, which really come to life down in the lower register. We reckon it's just the sort of instrument that would be great for 'doubling up' on and its sonic characteristics make it perfect for a small combo.

It comes in a fitted, plush lined, latched hard shell case, which neatly slips into a faux sheepskin lined, zippered nylon carrying case with a full length zippered front pocket, webbed handle and adjustable/removable shoulder strap.

For more info go to [www.jhs.co.uk](http://www.jhs.co.uk)

## Hofner New President Archtop Guitar

Born of their beginnings in the classical violin field, Hofner have a long tradition of producing some of the very best archtop guitars. Those who remember the heyday of Hofner guitars will no doubt recall the names Committee and President as being the cream of the crop, played by some of the great European jazz guitarists such as Attila Zoller or, yes – Sacha Distel! The New President is a recreation of that iconic instrument with a few contemporary upgrades.

This instrument oozes quality – every edge is perfectly rounded and every surface is super smooth. The standard Hofner headstock is faced with a mother of pearl script and lily motif and

sports gold Schaller machine heads with ebony buttons.

Beyond the 44mm bone nut is an ebony fretboard that feels more like marble (although warmer!), set with five traditional Hofner style mother of pearl block position stripes and 22 expertly finished standard frets. This is bound and set onto the shallow 'C' super-flamed maple neck. The solid wood top table is carved from German spruce (16-inch across the lower bout) with flamed maple sides and a flamed maple back that has been perfectly bookmatched. A brass trapeze tailpiece has been capped with a lyre shaped ebony cover

and ebony has also been used for the adjustable, compensated bridge, and the pickguard that comes with set-in black miniature volume and tone knobs. A single Hofner Diamond Gold floating pickup is positioned at the end of the fretboard.

The President can either be played acoustically or with amplification, as it has an impressive resonance that produces a big acoustic sound that is both clean and full of character. Amplified through the house SR Jam 100 Acoustic amp, the Diamond Gold pickup is extremely well balanced over the full range and admirably amplifies those full acoustic characteristics. The tone pot gives just enough colouration and edge to add attack, or mellowness, as required.

The President comes in a ballistic nylon weave, latched shaped, hard shell case with a fitted and cushioned velour interior with accessory pocket.

For more info go to [www.bandm.co.uk](http://www.bandm.co.uk)

