

JodyJazz Super Jet Alto Saxophone Mouthpiece

Contemporary Sound, Great Power

odyJazz has announced its new Super Jet saxophone mouthpiece series, which incorporates manufacturing techniques developed during design and development of the company's DV, Giant and Jet mouthpieces. The first available Super Jet model is for alto saxophone.

Building on the success of its recently released Jet line of hard-rubber saxophone mouthpieces, JodyJazz has designed the Super Jet—constructed from virgin brass and silver-plated—with smooth-jazz, rock and funk players in mind. The goal was to create a contemporary-sounding mouthpiece with great power. "I wanted to apply many of the characteristics that had proved so popular with the Jet series to a metal mouthpiece," said Jody Espina, president of JodyJazz. "The result has been far beyond our expectations. I feel now for the first time, we have a mouthpiece that spectacularly provides the tonality and performance that the majority of smooth-jazz players are looking for, but still without sacrificing bottom in the tone and the free-blowing nature that has become synonymous with JodyJazz pieces."

I was excited by the results I got when trying the Super Jet alto mouthpiece (size 7 tip opening) with Vandoren Java (Red Box) #2½ and Fibracell medium reeds on a vintage Selmer Mark VI as well as the brand-new Yamaha 50th Anniversary Custom Z. I found the Super Jet to be comfortable, responsive and free-blowing. The lower notes on the altos were warm and rich sounding, even at low volumes. Articulation was crisp and intonation well-centered and accurate throughout all registers. The higher notes and altissimo range were incredibly responsive and impressively powerful. Both altos that I paired with the Super Jet projected very well without needing an unusually strong air flow—it was as if a gate had been opened and I had suddenly reached a new level of freedom to wail. The supplied Rico H ligature complemented the mouthpiece nicely.

I thoroughly enjoyed playing the Super Jet on lead alto parts in a big band. The mouthpiece blended nicely in the saxophone section and gave me all the power I could want. As a soloist in a moderately loud ensemble, it was liberating to not have to worry about being heard without a microphone. Its "wow" factor has implications that go far beyond mainstream jazz, though. In a funk, fusion or r&b setting, this mouthpiece has the potential to sound great while really "letting it rip" in all registers of the alto.

I would recommend the Super Jet alto saxophone mouthpiece to smooth-jazz players and saxophonists looking for a strong sound with great response. The alto model is available in tip-opening designations of 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 and carries a suggested retail price of \$350.

-Bruce Gibson