

Jody Jazz Saxophone Mouthpiece HR Custom Dark Tenor 8* & 10*

As we are used to seeing Jody Jazz Super Jets (they have become our benchmark metal mouthpieces), these hard rubber models came as something of a surprise and are a very different kettle of fish.

Made from Jody Jazz's proprietary Chedeville rubber, a softer, purer form of the compound used on regular rubber mouthpieces, the Custom Dark has curved side walls and a large rounded chamber. Build quality, as always, is excellent, and both are beautifully finished. There is an added brass band to the base of the mouthpiece, which not only gives weight, but also adds to the resonance and aids harmonics. It also helps to protect the mouthpiece from splitting, if someone tries to push the mouthpiece onto a neck that is too big!

We were supplied with both the 8* and 10* models for test and

started with the 8*. There is a strong rake off at the tip of the mouthpiece, so careful positioning of the reed is essential. Initially we found that the mouthpiece was a little hard to play, but after changing reeds and some judicious juxtaposition, we eventually found one that produced the kind of response that we were hoping for – a warm, rich and dark sound.

The 10* was a revelation, as we thought it was going to be hard to play. How wrong we were! It turned out to be much easier to play than the 8* and removed that slight 'stiffness' we had got with the other model. The sound produced was still rich and dark, but we found that we could get a little more brightness and edginess into the mix. Articulation was good and harmonics were easy to achieve.

These are not mouthpieces suited to big band blowouts (the Jody Jazz Super Jets cover that ground perfectly), but rather to the more mellow, sensual and sultry tones of the lounge bar.

