

Jody Jazz HR Custom Dark Alto saxophone mouthpiece

We reviewed the tenor version of this mouthpiece back in our May issue, and were hugely impressed by its tonal character and general playability. This new alto version has all those same characteristics, and because Jody Espina is himself a very talented alto player, the alto version has seen some refinements that only add to the Custom Dark's already superb sonic qualities.

Like its senior cousin, the alto HR Custom Dark is made from the company's proprietary 'CHR' Chedeville hard rubber. This exclusive special hard rubber formula, which was developed for the

company's Chedeville brand of Classical mouthpieces, brings more warmth and subtlety to the sound due to its purity and density. As

Espina explains: "Alto sax players often find with many mouthpieces that there are a lot of unpleasant highs in the sound, especially on the higher notes. With the new HR Custom Dark Alto, we retained the fun of playing a great Alto mouthpiece, while taking all the unpleasant highs off.

"We achieved

this by shaping a beautiful rollover baffle, which gives it the pop and feedback that Alto players are used to, and then making a large chamber and bore, to give it this mellow, warm, pretty sound."

The mouthpiece also offers a boost of body and more intense harmonics, due to the increased mass of the heavy stylised ring on its shank, the profile and heft of which was inspired by the JodyJazz Power Ring ligature.

Like all other Jody Jazz mouthpieces, the HR Custom Dark alto is incredibly free blowing and a real joy to play through.

We recommend that alto players give this new kid on the block a try, as we are sure you'll be very pleasantly surprised.

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