

## JODYJAZZ HR\* CUSTOM DARK ALTO

The HR\* Custom Dark Alto is the latest hard rubber saxophone mouthpiece from JodyJazz (also available for soprano and tenor). I have played JodyJazz pieces across all horns for years and am happily settled on the DVNY. Tonally, the HR\* Custom Dark is a jazz piece that sits between the HR\* and DVNY and I like it, just not as much as my DVNY.

Its construction is beautiful, perfect tip and rails, large chamber (dark and free blowing), scooped sidewalls (dark with some resistance), a small rollover baffle (attack and edge) and most importantly a deep drop after the baffle. This is what I love about the DVNY because it adds a rich, dark core to the sound. It also has a brass band on the shank, which is supposed to add harmonics. Hard to tell if this does anything, but it looks cool.

My first impression was very positive, responsive with a beautiful, dark, warm core and breadth. Excellent projection with your classic alto edge, easy altissimo and subtone. Compared to the HR\*, this mouthpiece is a huge improvement. It supercharges the HR\* by adding in low and mid frequencies that build the core of your tone without sacrificing projection. It is actually quite similar to the DVNY in feel and design but with more edge and resistance.

I will be sticking with my DVNY which is free blowing, has more resonance and sheer quantity of tone to shape. But, if I was playing the HR\* or another standard jazz piece (Meyer, Otto link, Vandoren) I would switch to the HR\* Custom Dark in a heartbeat.

**Jack Beeche**

