

COLIN KYO WOODEN CHANTER REVIEW

Recently we received the latest wooden chanter from Murray Huggins of Colin Kyo Bagpipes. We have seen both his poly and laminated wooden chanter in the past and now have had the opportunity to play his African Blackwood chanter.

This is something that has been eagerly awaited, not just to try this particular chanter, but to compare it to the laminated chanter and see how good that material is compared to Blackwood.

The chanter arrived with an engraved silver band. The engraving was very nicely done. The chanter is a very handsome design and obviously well crafted (as we have come to expect from all Colin Kyo products).



Colin Kyo African Blackwood Chanter with Engraved Silver Band.

Straight out of the box with a Warnock reed the chanter was quite true and very bright sounding. A little sharp on F and High G, quite flat on D and a little on Low G. With some tape the chanter was true enough although F became quite thin and lost volume when taped. As the chanter was played for about 5 – 10 minutes it allowed for the tape to be lifted (to the point of almost removing it completely) on F and High G and D came up to pitch. Low G remained a little flat, although not unpleasant. This is a very true chanter with little or no work on it, which cannot be said about many chanters on the market.

The chanter plays well. It is free blowing, resonant and very bright. It has a very good modern pitch. The Blackwood chanter is very similar to the laminated chanter in overall characteristics and even tonal quality. We thought the laminated chanter had a brighter top hand, but there is very little significant difference. The sound files of both chanters can be heard here: <http://www.schoolofpiping.com/multimedia.htm>

The chanter has a Piobaireachd High G which is not only nice in tone, but well pitched and stable.

The volume of the chanter is a good balance for the Kyo drones which we found to be very impressive in tone and volume.

This is a really nice chanter, which plays very well. It is stable with no obvious flaws. It is easy to reed (We tried 7 very different reeds and six went very well in the chanter). Again we thought it went better with some of the straight cut reeds that we tried, showing a little more depth and tonal quality. Although the chanter was very nice and bright with a ridge cut Warnock reed and that is what was used for the sound files. This is a chanter that would be competitive at the highest of levels and we would be confident in saying that anyone who purchased one would be more than pleased with it.

Characteristics:

- Bright tone.
- Good volume.
- True scale.
- Stable Piobaireachd High G.
- Good stability with no obvious faults.

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