

KINTAIL BAGPIPES REVIEW

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Kintail Bagpipes is a company that was set up by Greig Sharpe when he left the position of manager of Henderson Ltd in the 1970s. Greig was always adamant that he took the tools with him and continued to make Henderson bagpipes. This review is of a set of KB2 Bagpipes. They come with nickel ferrules and imitation ivory Projecting mounts and ring caps. These are a very good “entry level” bagpipe.



The pipes are traditionally shaped externally in the Henderson pattern. They have nice clean turning and very high quality bores. The bores had good uniformity with parts being interchangeable and the ferrules and mounts being very accurately fitted. The projection mounts are very elegant in the Henderson style. The beading and combing is of excellent quality. The combing is deep and features 7 threads. The pipes are 100% hand turned from African Blackwood.



The nickel mounts on the pipes are not threaded, but are press fit and glued onto the pipe in the same manner that Henderson's always were. There was plenty of wood under the mounts, which were all well fitted.



Hemp retainers are fitted only to the instruments with slides, but not the set we reviewed. The threading for the hemp was not deep and retainers not needed on this set.



The blow stick has a large size bore as does the mouthpiece so as not to cause any blowing restrictions.

The drones were very easy to set up and accepting of most different types of reeds. Crozier, Canning, Kinnaird and Ezeedrone reeds were all “plug and play” and a good result was obtained from them all. At a modern pitch. The drones have a full resonant and vibrant tone. The tenors produced an average of 119db at the bushes and the bass 114db. This is a good strong volume with good bass/tenor balance, giving a bright tenor sound and a resonant bass which does not overly dominate. The Henderson pedigree is very evident in the sound.



The chanter that came with this bagpipe was the poly version which was a pleasant sounding chanter. It was easy enough to reed. Both a ridge cut and straight cut reed were suited to the chanter. There were no obvious flaws in its performance, good stability and reasonable volume and stability.



Each bagpipe has the makers name and date of manufacture imprinted below the cord guides.

These are great looking sets of very traditional styled pipes, They are very well made with a great quality sound from the drones.

Available from: http://www.schoolofpiping.com/shop/bagpipes_and_accessories.html

An advertisement for schoolofpiping.com. It features a photograph of three bagpipe chanter keys (spurs) with black and silver finishes. To the right of the keys, the text reads: "articles, reviews, sound files", "photo albums, audio lessons", "news, historic information", "and more", "for the piper at every level!". At the bottom of the advertisement, the website address "www.schoolofpiping.com" is written in a large, yellow, sans-serif font.

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