

Henderson Solo Chanter Review

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Recently I received a timber Peter Henderson Solo Chanter for testing. The chanter arrived in its own box, secured by elastic bands and came with a chanter cap and a very nice reed. This is the nicest packaging I have ever seen a chanter arrive in. No doubt this will ensure they arrive safely.



The chanter is very well made, with the holes being chamfered to remove the sharp edges that we always experience with a new chanter. This made the chanter feel like a very old chanter to play from the outset. I like the feel of a new chanter, but this one did feel very nice to play. It has no threaded reed seat (a positive to me, as the reed can be pushed into place rather than twisted which can misalign the blades).

I tried a number of types of reeds and found that it was easy to reed and I achieved good results with almost every reed I tried. Piobaireachd G was very stable and nicely toned. It was easiest to achieve a good result with a MacPhee reed on Piob G, although with a little fiddling a good result was also achieved with a few ridge cut reeds as well.



Volume up the chanter scale is uniform and the pitch was as one would expect with a modern chanter. It is quite true, and any discrepancies were fixed with a little tape. These (as usual) varied between reeds. High G does not have the sharpness one normally experiences using a ridge cut reed.



The chanter I would describe as warm and very full in tone. It produces good volume with nice harmonics. It is a free feeling chanter that is very nice to play straight out of the box.

This is a chanter we are going to hear a lot more of on the contest boards.

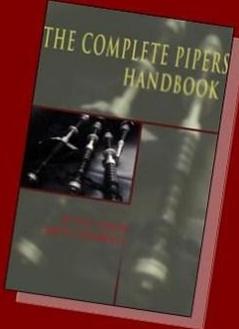
Characteristics:

- Warm full tone.
- Good Volume.
- True scale.
- Very nice Piobaireachd G.
- Good stability with no discernable faults.

The chanter is available here: <http://www.rghardie.com/>

More reviews and articles can be seen at the school of piping website at: <http://www.schoolofpiping.com/index.html>.

Sound files of the chanter can be heard on the multi-media page.



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