

# RJM Solo Chanter Review

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Today we received a number of wood RJM Solo Chanters in the post. They arrived in custom cardboard tubes, complete with graphics and lots of bubble wrap. These chanters are made by David Naill and Co, however Roddy McLeod has obviously been instrumental in their design.



At first glance the chanter appears very well made. It has no threaded reed seat (a positive to us, as the reed can be pushed into place rather than twisted, which can misalign the blades and pull hemp off the bottom of the reed if not careful when lifting the reed).

A lot has been said about the low A hole being quite low down on this chanter. It was, but we did not find it uncomfortable. The hole is not large, so girls were soon cracking out. It might not suit someone who struggles with the stretch though.

The chanter pitches around the mid 480 Hz mark on a Bb tuner straight out of the box. It seems acceptant of a wide variety of reeds and has no noticeable performance issues. F and D appeared stable and Piobaireachd High G was one of the best we have ever tested in a modern chanter. It was stable, well pitched and no need to alter between light music and piobaireachd. Amazingly no tape was needed on high G using a ridge cut reed.

In testing, E was quite sharp and B and D slightly under pitch compared to the rest of the chanter. This was minor and a few tweaks would see a very true chanter without any significant carving or taping. This was consistent, but varied slightly with different reed combinations.

The chanter is very clean sounding tonally, but not the same fullness of tone we have come to expect from a Naill chanter. High A has a real crackle as you would expect from something Roddy had a hand in designing. This is a free blowing chanter, with good volume for effort. Volume was quite consistent up the scale and the chanter produces more volume than a standard Naill. The chanter does not vary a lot with minor blowing discrepancies.



*Roddy McLeod a prolific prize winning soloist*

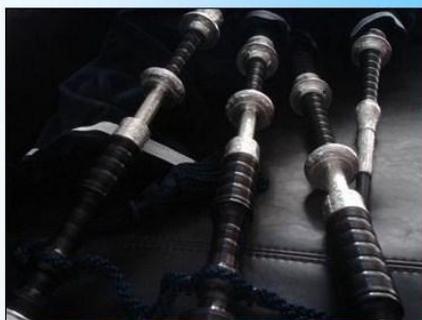
This chanter is on the upper spectrum of the price scale and having Roddy McLeod's name attached to it will obviously ensure that it sells well, however in our opinion this is a very good option for someone wanting a reliable, clean and well performing solo chanter.

Characteristics:

- Very clean and crisp.
- Good Volume.
- Quite true scale (some tweaks needed)
- Exceptional Piobaireachd G.
- Very good stability with no notable performance faults.
- Easy to Reed.

RJM Chanters can be purchased from the School of Piping Shop at:

[http://www.schoolofpiping.com/shop/bagpipes\\_and\\_accessories.html](http://www.schoolofpiping.com/shop/bagpipes_and_accessories.html)



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