

SAUL TUNER REVIEW

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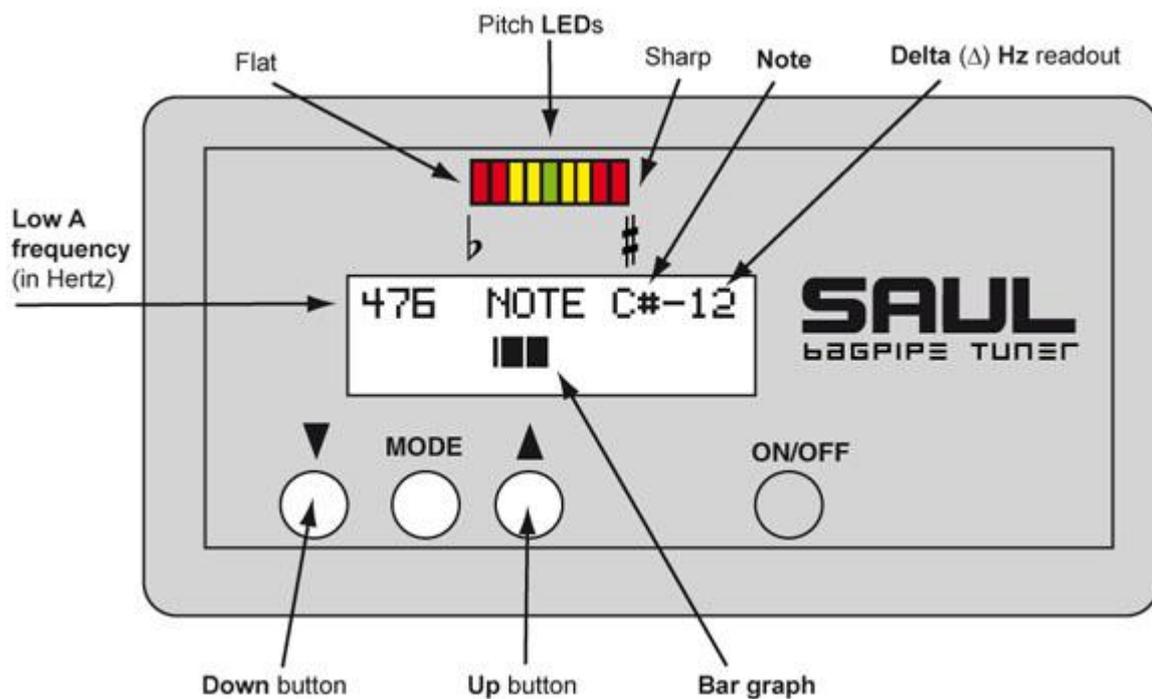
- Revolutionary; maybe? It is certainly clever.
- Easy to use; definitely!
- Accurate; yes.
- Expensive; yes, when compared to some chromatic tuners.
- Worth it; no question about it!

This is an interesting product. We have been using tuners for some time now, but one that fits onto your instrument is certainly a very clever idea. I have always had a great respect for Mark. He is a quiet achiever. You only need to listen to his album to know that he walks a little off the main path. He is inventive, creative and obviously technically savvy.

Stick a tuner onto my bagpipe with tape though, hey I don't think so! I have been using it like a normal tuner and I think it is excellent. It is so easy to use. Green light is in tune, red light means it isn't. It doesn't get simpler than that. It is set up mathematically to the bagpipe scale, which means no guessing which note goes where like a chromatic tuner, and I am told it is amazingly effective if attached to an instrument. It tunes every note of the chanter and the drones. A great idea! Not only good for tuning and teaching tuning, but I am sure it is a good guide to learn steady blowing as well. Also brilliant for those who play with other instruments and want to stay at a certain pitch and remain in tune through an entire performance. It is so fast and easy to use.

How accurate is it. Well to my ear it is pretty good. I would not set high A mathematically correct, as that sounds too sharp to my ear, so I stick to the yellow light just before green for that note and tune it a little on the flat side. Everything else is pretty close. You are only limited by your own blowing now!

This is bigger than some tuners on the market, and at \$30 for a Korg it has some strong competition, but the Korg cannot tune a bagpipe scale without knowing what you are doing. It is not as accurate or as sensitive. The fact that you can set the tuner up on your pipe is brilliant and will appeal to many (except those with a French Polished set of Vintage Pipes)! It is certainly very serviceable without attaching to your pipes, but worth using it as recommended I am sure.



The Saul Tuner can be purchased from The School of Piping Shop at:
http://www.schoolofpiping.com/shop/bagpipes_and_accessories.html

More reviews can be found at: <http://www.schoolofpiping.com/reviews.html>