

WALLACE BAGPIPES REVIEW

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It is always a thrill to have a new set of bagpipes arrive. A set of Wallace Classic 4 was no exception. These arrived in a foam packed, flat box, complete with an ownership record certificate and a certificate of manufacture complete with a date of manufacture and a serial number.



The pipes on first inspection appear to be classically shaped, with nice clean turning and immaculate “glass like” bores. The bores had good uniformity with most parts being interchangeable. The projecting mounts are nicely shaped, in the Henderson type style, and the beading and combing is of excellent quality. The combing features only 6 threads and is quite narrow, making the pipes easily identifiable.



The nickel mounts on the pipes were nicely shaped and very well made. We had heard stories in the past of projecting mounts coming loose, but after discussions with Craig Munro the pipe maker, he has assured us that this is no longer the case with mounts now being threaded and an expert providing advice on the best glue available. Different glues are now used for nickel mounts as compared to plastic mounts and ferrules.

Hemp retainers are fitted to the instrument. These are made of blackwood and are perfectly sized. The pipes require minimal hemping, due to the depth of the combing of the hemped sections.



The drone topes have some unusual combing again making the pipes slightly unique, but in keeping with a classic shape. There is quite a modern look to the tops and cord tracks that is not out of place.



The blow stick and stock were made of plastic, removing any possibility of cracking. The different material is hardly noticeable from the rest of the instrument. An easy solution to an age old problem.



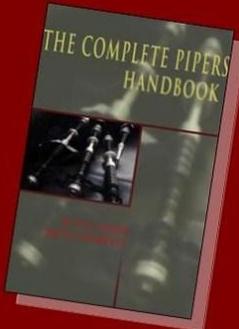
The Blow stick has a good size bore that offers no restriction to blowing.

The drones were very easy to set up and accepting of different types of reeds. Crozier and Canning reeds were “plug and play” and a good result was obtained from Ezeedrones with a little manipulation of the bridles. The drones have a full resonant and vibrant tone. The tenors produced an average of 118db at the bushes and the bass 114db. This is a good strong volume with good bass/tenor balance, giving a good rich dominance from the bass without being over bearing.

The chanter that came with this bagpipe was the poly version which was quite true straight out of the box and easily reeded. Both a ridge cut and straight cut reed suited the chanter well. There were no obvious flaws in its performance, good stability and very good volume. Piobaireachd high G was very stable and pleasantly toned.



A visit to the Wallace Bagpipes website at <http://www.wallacebagpipes.com/index.htm> will show the extent of their range. These are a nice looking set of pipes, which are obviously well made with a good sound and reasonable price tag.



The Complete Pipers Handbook

Is a must for every serious piper. Never before has a more comprehensive guide been published. Maintenance, set up, refinement, tuning, setting up bands, performance psychology and much more!

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