

REVIEW - BANNATYNE'S MOISTURE CONTROL SYSTEM

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Having experienced some difficulties with a number of moisture control systems due to leaks, kinking hoses and ineffective drying agents, I was very interested to try the Bannatyne's system. I was very familiar with their bags; having played one on a set of my pipes for some years, but have never tried the Moisture Control System before.

The canister itself is a clear cylinder. This is filled with silica gel beads that are orange in colour. As the gel picks up moisture it changes to dark green and with the clear cylinder, it is easy to see when the drying agent is wet and needs replacing. This material breaks down in a microwave, so it is strongly suggested to dry in for 20 minutes in a standard oven. Also this material does not create dust. A great advantage! Playing time also seems as good as or longer than most other materials we have tested in the past.

The canister, hoses and fitting all come together to make a leak free system which to us is essential in a good moisture control set up.



Bannatyne's silica gel based Moisture Control System

The cylindrical shape of the canister means that you do not have to rotate any hoses to get it into position. It is comfortable and cannot be felt when playing.

The cups connecting the hoses to the stocks are robust and do not restrict airflow, there is not much difference to the hose width and the stock. The hoses are flexible but do not kink when put in the box. All fittings are perfectly airtight.

There is a “pressure material” in the canister. This aids stopping without restrictive valves. It also seems to regulate pressure. When installing the canister there is some reduction in drone tonal depth, not a lot in volume, but this can be a good thing for anyone looking to refine their drone sound a little.

The instructions for use of the system are easy to follow and highlight different ways it can be fitted to suit the individual needs of the piper. Some will only use it for the drones; others want the chanter connected if they find they require additional moisture control.

Bannatyne’s Bags and Moisture Control Systems are available from the School of Piping Shop. http://www.schoolofpiping.com/shop/bagpipes_and_accessories.html To inquire email us at schoolofpiping@gmail.com



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