

COLIN KYO BAGPIPE 2016 REVIEW

We recently received a set of moose and nickel mounted bagpipes from Colin Kyo and noted that they have changed so much from our first review that it was time for an update.

Colin Kyo Bagpipes is a company named after the maker's son. Murray Huggins from Southern Oregon, USA is the maker and is proud to boast that he is the only maker to personally make and design his bagpipes and chanters, does all of his own metal forming, hand engraving and makes his own reeds. Murray is also a skilled piper, having played since he was nine years of age. His bagpipe design he says reflects his influence by Raymond Weaver, Cameron Wylie and Jimmy McColl. Murray has also been notable in introducing laminate materials into bagpipe manufacture.

Murray produces a bagpipe that is of outstanding quality. Since reviewing his pipes some years ago, he has developed a more classic external appearance and his quality of manufacture is now absolute World class.



Colin Kyo Bagpipes, World Class Quality

The bottom of the Kyo stocks are slightly flared which Murray says gives a little better airflow and volume. The sound of the drones is very impressive indeed. A good full, robust drone sound with excellent projection. The drones were very stable and present with a good oneness of sound. Against the chanter there was an excellent balance with the drones presenting a good umbrella of sound to support the chanter. The laminate chanter plays very well and is indistinguishable from a wooden chanter, maybe just a little brighter in tone. The same applies to the drones as they present a quality of tone that is as good as I have heard (and in some cases better) from the best of instruments.



Colin Kyo Engraved Nickel Ringcaps and Moose Antler bushes

Murray makes pipes mounted in imitation ivory, antler, nickel and of course his own designed and manufactured silver mounts. The engraving of the silver is superb and the projecting mounts are also very elegant in shape



Murray's engraved silver



Antler and silver mounted Kyo

Setting the pipes up was a breeze. They are very easy to reed. We first used a set of Ezeedrone reeds that plugged in and played with little alteration. They went well with Selbie, Crozier, Kinnaird and Caning Reeds. We are sure that most reeds of good quality will go well in these pipes..

The chanter was initially reeded with a ridge cut reed as recommended by Murray (but went equally well with a straight cut reed) and both chanter and drones played without any fault noticeable. They struck in well, were stable and sounded great with little need for significant alteration of reeds. Both the drones and chanter were accepting of most reed types.

This is genuinely a top class instrument of the highest quality of manufacture; they have great volume and depth of tone. They are easy to set up and an absolute delight to play. The classic shape and quality of manufacture will make these instruments the sought after vintage instruments of the next generations.



Antler and silver mounted Kyo

Contact us at schoolofpiping@gmail.com to order



Colin Kyo Bagpipes
www.colinkyobagpipes.com