

McCallum Mark 3 Chanter Review

www.schoolofpiping.com

We have many inquiries about McCallum Chanters at the School of Piping Shop. They are one of the most popular chanters on the market, whether they are wood, poly, band or solos chanters. There are some misconceptions about the sound quality and “large holes” (which was only a feature on the Mark 2 chanters).

The Mark 3 chanter is designed to pitch around 482-484Hz, which of course will vary depending upon reed, climate and temperature. It is therefore slightly higher in pitch and brighter in tone than the MC2 solo chanter. McCallum have reverted back to the smaller sized round holes and as a result this chanter sits very nicely in the hands and is very comfortable to play.



Smaller, round holes of the Mark 3 Chanter

Visually the chanter is very well made in the “minimalist” McCallum style with no scribed lines on the ball and it has the McCallum square shouldered foot. The consistency in

manufacture is outstanding with a very uniformed result, even among batches of wood chanterers.

I tried a number of brands of chanter reeds and found that it was very easy to reed and I achieved good results with almost every reed I tried. Piobaireachd G produces a nice, stable tone with good volume. This is one of the best modern chanterers that we have encountered, which no obvious flaws or instabilities.

Volume up the chanter scale is quite uniformed. It had a good bold top hand with a very string high A. It is very true with careful reeding, and in fact we have been able to get a good result with no tape at all. High G needed a little tape with some reeds that were tried, but a lot less than most chanterers usually require.



Minimalist styling of the McCallum Chanter

The chanter I would describe as very bright, rather than warm in tone and it produces good volume. It is a free feeling chanter that is very nice to play. This is the truest and nicest chanterers that I have played straight out of the box. The chanter is certainly very comfortable to play.

This is a chanter that performs very well in both the poly and wood version. It is well suited as a solo chanter and in fact played by some of the Worlds top soloists at the moment. As a

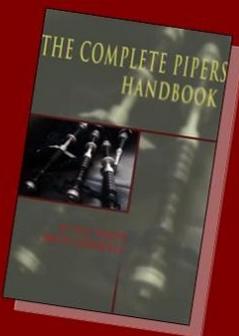
band chanter, it is a good modern pitch, very stable and a very bright pleasant tone. It is highly recommended as one of the best chanters available today.

Characteristics:

- Bright.
- Good Volume.
- Modern pitch
- Very true scale.
- Very stable Piobaireachd G.
- Very good stability with no notable faults.
- Very easy to reed.

McCallum Bagpipes and Chanters can be purchased from the School of Piping Shop at:

http://www.schoolofpiping.com/shop/bagpipes_and_accessories.html

The image shows the cover of a book titled 'THE COMPLETE PIPERS HANDBOOK'. The cover is dark with a photograph of a piper playing a bagpipe. The title is written in a light, serif font at the top. Below the title, there is a smaller, less legible text.

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!

Available from: www.schoolofpiping.com selected stockists.