

Duncan McRae BAGPIPE REVIEW

All pipers will be aware of Stuart Liddell, the tremendous sound that he produces and the exceptional record of prizes that he has won. Stuart plays, for the uninformed, an old set of Duncan McRae Bagpipes, which have now been copied and reproduced by McCallum Bagpipe Makers and are now on the market. We recently prepared an SL3 set, which was an exceptionally nice instrument.



Full imitation ivory and blackwood, SL3 McRae bagpipe.

First the instrument was very well made. A very classic profile and a faithful copy of a McRae pipe. Beading and combing were very precise and the modern looking fountains that McCallum pipes have were gone. Very delicate cord guides and elegant beading was evident.



McRae SL3

The pipes were very easy to set up. Alterations to reeds to meet a modern pitch were not required and the reeds went straight in out of the box. The sound produced was well balanced, a really good drone volume and the type of sound you would expect from Stuart Liddell's bagpipe. It is a faithful and accurate reproduction.



McRae SL3 showing cord guides and beading.

The sound of the drones is very impressive indeed. A good full, robust drone sound with excellent bass 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 pipes come standard with a poly Mk3 McCallum chanter, but the set we arranged had a timber MC2, which went exceptionally well with the drones.



Classic profile of the McRae SL3 drones.

We tried several variations of reeds and all went well in the drones. Not only sounding nice, but also performing well for starts, stops, back pressure, double tones etc. We have no doubt these will be a very popular bagpipe.



DUNCAN MacRAE
Bagpipes
by Stuart Liddell

The Duncan MacRae bagpipes
by Stuart Liddell are available
in four options: SL1, SL2,
SL3 and SL4 as shown here.



SL4: Thistle engraved alloy ferrule and slide
with imitation ivory projecting mount



SL1, SL2, SL3:
Imitation ivory ring cap



SL1: Blackwood projecting
mouse with plain alloy ferrules



SL2: Imitation ivory projecting mouse and
blackwood slides with plain alloy ferrules



SL3: Imitation ivory ferrule
with blackwood slides




SL3: Imitation ivory
projecting mouse and ferrule

www.macraebagpipes.com

The instrument comes in several variants and no doubt we can arrange some custom variations as well. We recommend this as a top class instrument for anyone who is keen to produce an exceptional sound. You contact us at schoolofpiping@gmail.com to arrange a quotation and to discuss your options.

For more information on how best to set up your bagpipe and make it fit properly obtain The Complete Pipers Handbook. The most comprehensive guide available today. Available from <http://www.schoolofpiping.com/handbook.html>

The image shows the cover of the book 'The Complete Pipers Handbook'. The cover is dark with a photograph of a piper playing a bagpipe. The title 'THE COMPLETE PIPERS HANDBOOK' is printed at the top in a light color.

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.