

ReedGeek Klangbogen

Increased Output, Stabilized Sax/Clarinet Tone

The Klangbogen from ReedGeek has abilities you might not expect from a simple bow-shaped device that attaches to a saxophone's neck tenon. By helping to maximize air flow through the instrument's conical tube, the Klangbogen improves efficiency by reducing air turbulence inside the horn. This has the effect of increasing output and depth of tone while stabilizing the extreme ranges of the instrument. It improves projection, intonation and focus. It has to be tried to be believed.

The Klangbogen comes in two versions to fit different types of saxophones. The original two-piece version uses a small pin to connect the device to the lyre holder, while a newer one-piece version attaches directly to the neck screw or the lyre screw. It's offered in several different metallurgical finishes—including matte brass, gold plating and silver plating—and polishes, each with its own unique response and feel. A version for clarinet called the ClariKlang attaches via the ligature screw.

When I tried the Klangbogen on my low-A baritone saxophone, I noticed immediate improvements in the stability of my low B-flat, not to mention an astonishing ability to get altissimo notes to speak. On my old Selmer/Bundy tenor, notes slotted more clearly and my normal-

ly stuffy altissimo G cleared right up. On clarinet, I found it much easier to control throat tones with the ClariKlang. Something mysterious was clearly at work here, so I put in a call to ReedGeek founder Mauro Di Gioia to help explain the phenomenon.

"On a saxophone, after the sound wave is generated by the reed, amplified through the mouthpiece and propagated in the neck, it takes a sharp turn and hits the neck tenon, where the wave gets disrupted and loses energy," Di Gioia said. "The Klangbogen keeps that energy in the horn by bouncing it back into the tube at that critical point. That stabilizes the tube, so the sound wave doesn't break up as much. And once the Klang gets vibrating along with the air column inside the tube, it's utilizing energy, and that energy has to be released some way. The Klang actually helps to funnel it forward, so you get a little more forward projection. And the different metallurgies we offer affect how that energy is emanated, resulting in different tonal qualities." —Ed Enright

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