



Odyssey Debut Flugelhorn

We have previously reviewed and tested instruments from the Odyssey Premiere range, which proved to be very good value for money. So the updated, upgraded Debut range was an interesting development.

Very much a 'beginners' instrument', this flugelhorn comes in a shiny yellow brass finish and is robust with a good build quality. The braces supporting the bell are sturdy, although they remain quite delicate, whilst the three water keys are of the traditional external cantilevered variety with cork heads.

It's noticeable that the Debut has a bigger bore size than our house Taylor, which along with a shorter basic bottom sprung valve block immediately suggests that this Flugel is fitted with a trumpet valve block, which is not uncommon at this price point, as it saves going to the trouble of making a specific Flugel block. The consequence of this is that it reduces the differential between the cylindrical lead pipe into

the block and the conical "wrap" of tubing curling out to the bell, and is one of the reasons why cheaper Flugels often sound 'trumpety' with a harsher and brighter tone.

We fitted the supplied Odyssey mouthpiece with its shallow cup (no cup size marked), the purpose of which we suspect is to help with achieving the range. As expected, the tone is harsh and bright by Flugel standards. However, fitting our house Taylor mouthpiece, although slightly loose due to the smaller bore size of the Taylor lead pipe, allowed us to achieve a warmer, fuller and darker tone - in fact much more Flugel-like. This we put

down to the deeper cup and the heavier and more bulky Taylor.

Overall, the instrument plays well (particularly with the Taylor mouthpiece), although there is quite a lot of resistance. The valves work smoothly and with a bit of a workout they should bed in nicely. The tuning slide trigger on the third valve has a nice smooth action, and the tuning seems to be fine across the full range

The Debut comes in a good-sized, lightweight, traditional rectangular case with a grab handle, two adjustable straps and 'D' rings, and is

covered in a fine weatherproof, nylon denier fabric. There is a 3/4 zip to the main compartment and a smaller one to the front pocket. The pre-formed interior is covered in a velvety material and not only houses the instrument, but also has a couple of mouthpiece slots.

The Odyssey Debut Flugel is a good beginner's horn that will serve the student well through the early exam grades, thereafter upgrading to the Odyssey Premiere or another comparable instrument.

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