

Review by Winston Rollins

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Odyssey 'Bb' Tenor Trombone OTB1500

Upon receiving the Odyssey 'Bb' Tenor Trombone OTB1500, the first thing I noticed was how light the case was! The case felt very durable yet light with padded handles which felt comfortable to hold, it's good to see that the case has two handles one in the usual horizontal position with the other placed on top of the case when it's stood in the vertical position, in my opinion, this is the handle which will get the most use!

The Odyssey 'Bb' Tenor Trombone OTB1500 was new straight from the factory so was wrapped in plastic when I opened the case, as to be expected!

With the case open you are greeted with a case which is moulded to the shape of the trombone so there's no ambiguity in how the Trombone fits, also provided inside the case was a mouthpiece which had its own compartment so as not to move around when the case was closed, although there were no size markings on the mouthpiece I would say that this is a 12C which is suitable starting point for most young musicians!



With a few extra compartments in the case to put extra things in, as well as back-straps, cloths and a rod for cleaning and a pocket on the side of the case, which is suitable for A4 sheets of music, this is a well-thought-out case!

“...the Odyssey 'Bb' Tenor Trombone OTB1500 is aimed at the student/professional who wants a good instrument at a competitive, affordable price, which Odyssey has delivered on!”

The Odyssey 'Bb' Tenor Trombone OTB1500 has a Rose Brass 8.04” Bell with a yellow brass slide with a bore size of 0.49” which is slightly smaller than instruments (bore size, that is) that some professional Trombonist use but the size of this instrument will make it easier for very young students to play, the Odyssey 'Bb' Tenor Trombone OTB1500 is aimed at the student/professional who wants a good instrument at a competitive, affordable price, which Odyssey has delivered on!

Putting the Trombone together Odyssey has opted for a washer option which screws down onto the trombone slide. The first thing you notice is how big the Rose bell is (and the colour!) due to the flair. The Trombone feels balanced in the playing position and not heavy at all.

The slide is smooth and solid straight out of the case, with time and the right slide lubrication this will make light work of fast movement, making the student play effortlessly with more efficiency! The difference between the bell brace and slide brace as you hold the instrument was just right, as if this was too wide it would make it very cumbersome to hold just the same way as if was too small, using a conventional grip I thought it felt solid in my hand! With the water key angled up, this makes it a little easier for younger players to reach.

Now, Playing this Trombone!

I was surprised when I played the Odyssey 'Bb' Tenor Trombone OTB1500 for the very first time!

The sound was rich, warm, and smooth yet powerful when blown hard but sweet when playing a Ballad. Playing through the harmonic series in each position, the tuning was perfect (trombone players are constantly making very fine adjustments to the slide position to keep all notes in tune when playing) from the peddles to high notes, the slide was quick and responsive, this was only going to get better with daily use. All the notes resonated well throughout, with the sound of the trombone sounding big when needed!

“Playing through the harmonic series in each position, the tuning was perfect from the peddles to high notes...”

There is also enough tubing to adjust the tuning slide for those bigger adjustments, this may sound like an odd thing to say but if you have a short tuning slide the instrument could sound sharp with the need to pull the tuning slide out all the way, the length of the tuning slide on the Odyssey 'Bb' Tenor Trombone OTB1500 is just right. As I said earlier, I didn't tire from holding the Trombone with my particular grip.

What surprised me the most, was the price range of the OTB1500, you cannot find a better trombone that plays this great than the Odyssey 'Bb' Tenor Trombone which is made to a very high standard, that is suitable for all students of all abilities and even some professionals!

 @odysseybrasswind

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Winston Rollins Biography

Winston Rollins needs little introduction. He began playing the trombone at the age of ten and later trained at the Trinity College Of Music in London.

His background is steeped in music having been in bands such as The Brand New Heavies, Incognito, Aswad, Jamiroquai, Courtney Pine. Currently he is a member of Jool Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra, since 1994 he has been one of four trombonists in the Brass section of the Orchestra.

He has his own studio, RedRoom Studios, in Chiswick, West London, and has produced albums himself. His talents extend thus as a musician (trombonist firstly but also keyboards and bass), songwriter, producer, arranger not to mention a unique personality and presence on stage.

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