

REVIEW by Tatsuya Sato - October 2009



All of the Theo Wanne mouthpieces I tested were crafted with modern tastefulness. I could feel Theo Wanne's love for creating mouthpieces in every mouthpiece I tried.

All the various mouthpiece models had the same external shape; however, they skillfully and successfully had a distinct sound from one another.

The changes in baffle, the shape of the chamber, and the thickness of the side-rails created a distinct sound ranging from very dark to super-bright. I was pleasantly surprised that all models played evenly from the lowest notes into the altissimo. Moreover, all were easy to blow and had wonderful uniformity, even though they are handmade.

DURGA Metal Tenor Gold

This is the brightest Theo Wanne model, and is akin to the Dave Guardala Super King. The DURGA is a high-baffle mouthpiece with a bright and powerful sound. However, it also has a well-developed and exquisitely deep vintage quality to it too, due to its unique large chamber. Its sound is unlimitedly bright, powerful and smooth, and it will not get buried in a very loud band.

KALI Metal Tenor Gold

This is the brightest model after the DURGA. It sounds slightly darker, though closely related to, the D-chamber Bobby Dukoff and Dave Guardala Brecker model I & II mouthpieces. The large chamber makes the sound rich. I recommend this to people who want a basic, jazzy, tasteful and luxurious mouthpiece.

AMMA Metal Tenor Gold

This is the most neutral mouthpiece. The baffle does not have steps like the DURGA and KALI, but instead has a baffle shape similar to an Otto Link. It sounds like an extremely good Early Babbitt Otto Link. This mouthpiece would work well with rock, pop, fusion and straight-forward jazz (Mainstream Jazz).

GAIA Metal Tenor Gold

This is the newest Theo Wanne model and is described in their catalogue as having a Florida

Link sound. This describes it perfectly. The sound is slightly darker than the AMMA, and just like a Florida Link!

PARVATI Metal Tenor Gold

The PARVATI is dark and husky sounding, similar to an Otto Link Tone Master. Being dark, edgy, thick sounding and very interesting to play, it never sounds indistinct.

AMBIKA Metal Tenor Gold

This is the darkest sounding Theo Wanne mouthpiece. Theo may have been inspired by the Otto Link Master Model with this mouthpiece. Its dark sound blew my mind and has changed my thinking of a dark sound.

It has great depth and is dark, edgy and tight. It has no baffle and a very large chamber, so requires a little more air to blow. I recommend it for mid- and high-level players.

PARVATI Stable-Wood Tenor

Describing the sound of a Stable-Wood mouthpiece is little bit hard, so let's just say it has a more husky and deep sound, and is smoother blowing, than hard-rubber. Stable-Wood does not require as much maintenance as a wooden clarinet and its great sound reminds me of the Otto Link Slant Signature mouthpieces.

AMBIKA Stable-Wood Tenor

The AMBIKA Stable-Wood mouthpiece has a darker and huskier tone than the PARVATI WOOD. It has the same sound concept as the AMBIKA Metal. It is basically a more modern version of Zoot Sim's sound, though its contemporary style may be more like Stan Getz than Zoot. This mouthpiece is Theo Wanne's answer to the true-vintage-sound.

Tatsuya Sato