

Connolly Rosin

The jazz violinists are a neglected lot, but we know you're out there—with your horsehair and your cramped necks. So we'll hip you to Connolly & Co.'s new Dominant Rosin, a blend of fine natural resins and a wax described as "exotic," made for use only with synthetic core strings. It's soft and tacky, which, for a rosin, is a good thing. connollyandco.com



Audio Technica Headphones

The cheapest way to score a pair of headphones is to book a flight on the company dime and swipe the ones they supply for the in-flight flick. But those are going to sound as bad as the movie they were made for. For those who demand higher quality sound, but who remain too hesitant to blow next month's rent on a set of cans, Audio Technica's ATH-M20s are for you. These modestly priced phones put out a balanced spectrum of sound, from deep bass to shining highs, that should suit most folks' needs—as well as the needs of project-studio engineers—just fine. And their padded headband rests on the dome more comfortably than any suck-airline set ever will. audiotechnica.com



Tascam CD-GT-1

If you're a little slow on the uptake when it comes to learning the licks of the masters, this one's for you. Tascam's CD-GT-1 is a phrase-trainer capable of slowing down a CD to as much as half its regular speed without lowering the music's pitch. You can cop lines at a snail's pace. A phono input lets you plug in order to play along and listen to your progress on headphones, but the input can also accommodate a microphone, a keyboard or anything else that terminates in a 1/4-inch plug. Tascam makes one especially for bass players, too. tascam.com



semble other players took note of my change of tone and complemented me my sound.

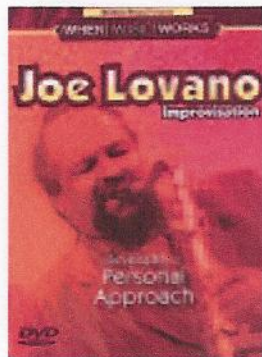
The soprano and baritone ESP models were the most fun to play. Using the soprano in big band and small group settings was a treat. I wasn't surprised that it offered excellent projection in a big band, but was really taken with the warmth and complexity of sound in a small jazz combo. It had beauty and softness when needed, projection and punch when called upon.

Playing the ESP baritone prototype was a real treat. Since I do a lot of baritone playing I was able to put this mouthpiece through the paces. It is

hands down by far the best baritone mouthpiece I have ever played!

For that matter, all the mouthpieces were excellent. It was nice to move from soprano to baritone with a sense of ease and familiarity. The tonal performance was everything a player could ask for and for the first time in my playing career I found merit in playing metal on soprano and alto. Additionally, one can look at these mouthpieces and know they are getting a mouthpiece that is not from the production mill but from real craftsmen. If you want to stop the insanity of the mouthpiece addiction, you owe it to yourself to try these mouthpieces out. **PAUL HAAR**

Instructional DVDs



JOE LOVANO Improvisation Berklee Press

Even if saxophone isn't your instrument, Joe Lovano still can teach you things about how to improvise on this hour-long DVD. This isn't about what to play but how to think about your own approach to playing. Lovano demonstrates what a good music teacher is by talking about what a musician can do to interpret melody, rhythm and harmony to facilitate his or her personal musical growth—and then he lets you hear what he's talking about by wailing away on his ax. Making you comfortable with the daunting role of the jazz improvisers seems to be Lovano's goal, and it's one he achieves. And no, he never takes off the hat. **RUSSELL CARLSON**



BRUCE BUCKINGHAM 50 Licks Jazz Style Hal Leonard

Be careful with lessons like this, beginning guitarists. Bruce Buckingham, the disc's onscreen instructor, has a pleasant demeanor and means well by teaching you these 50 licks, lines and turnarounds. The student who never strays from such tried-and-true phrases, however, will forever have that store-bought style. On the other hand, you do have to practice something, and if transcribing classic Barney Kessel runs on your own is more than you are able to do, this DVD lesson does give you something to work with. After all, it comes with a foldout sheet of tablature to guide you through all 50 licks, and Buckingham explains how each might be used in various contexts. Go ahead and learn these standard patterns—but please remember to forget them when you get on the bandstand. **RUSSELL CARLSON**