The Headjoint Specialist

2011-2012 New Headjoints

Background of new patent pending Cathedral Crown™

I concluded years ago the need for a less critical and consistent real cork seal clearly has major benefits to achieving optimal headjoint sound.

Simply stated, real cork is as important to headjoint sound as real horsehair is to the bow of a violin. There is no substitute for the distinct sound traditionally identified as that of the cork sealed headjoint. O-ring seals have been used as an alternative to cork, however one of the major issues with O-rings is they alter headjoint sound to a degree where it becomes a different timbre.

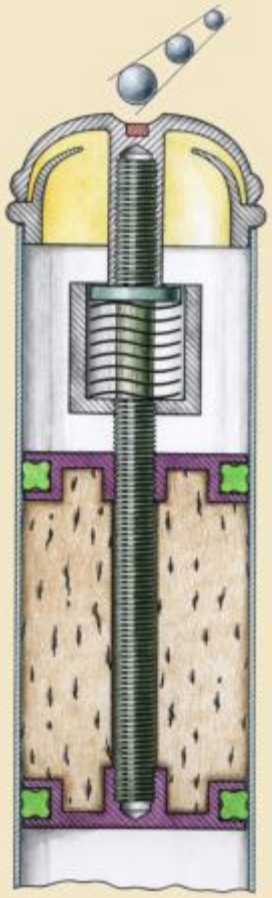
There is simply no substitute for the cork's contribution to sound. However one of corks major issues is its piece-to-piece variability. Variations in elasticity, porosity and resistance to shrinkage vary all over the lot. Additionally the nature of cork requires a compromise between two issues during installation. It must be tight enough to resist loosening from moisture deterioration and loose enough to avoid damping out the vibrancy of the head. In fact, we have seen competent flute technicians who are otherwise totally skillful, perform so-called "routine cork replacement" that did not meet Drelinger standards. Remember, a poorly fit or deteriorated cork can make an otherwise excellent playing head missing quality.

The initial focus of Drelinger's new Cathedral Crown Technology started with selecting the finest, most consistent natural cork available and making it work correctly, moisture free using a new sealing technology. By eliminating the need for tight cork installation, the cork can be optimized for proper sound without concern for moisture penetration or leakage. In fact, Drelinger guarantees the cork for six years.

In the early 1980's Drelinger introduced a breakthrough crown/cork assembly which for the first time designed to prevent mechanical loosening of the crown, made provisions for adding additional crown weight and among other benefits also improved cork life by impeding moisture. It is still a current feature on all our headjoints and can be seen on this website. In the almost 30 years that passed since the introduction of the Quiet-Crown™, many manufacturers followed our lead by developing various crown locking mechanisms and methods for adding weight to crowns.

We are now proud to announce a successor to Quiet-Crown which dramatically advances the concept which Quiet-Crown originally put into practice more than a quarter of a century ago. We call this new innovation Cathedral Crown Technology™. The Quiet-Crown will continue to be standard on all Drelinger headjoints. Drelinger's new Cathedral Crown Technology will be an optional feature on our new headjoints and will be available to retrofit Drelinger headjoints now in use. Later we will offer this innovative technology to owners of other makes of headjoints.

The benefits of the Cathedral Crown Technology perform as an ensemble of interactive functions, all contributing to consistant and secure flute playing.



Magnetic coupler. To facilitate the quick and reliable changing of crown weight. This feature accurately establishes correct crown weight.

Cathedral Crown™. At its heart a virtual acoustical atrium, covered by a thin precious metal dome. Facilitates a seamless evenness in all octaves.

Crown Keeper™. Provides active counter force so crown won't loosen. Acoustically more effective than locking screws or thread tape and easier to reset cork position if needed.

Real Cork. The highest quality, freshest cork available anywhere. Guaranteed for six years against deterioration caused by shrinking or other natural aging processes of cork including moisture absorption.

Clover Glides™. Their ultra thin profile, above and below cork, designed to keep moisture from cork. Patented design, requires only a fraction of the compression to seal compared to any known elastomer. Slides with the same effort as the cork.

Titanium Disc. Reflector disc material was chosen for both lightness and hardness.

Drelinger®