

# P. Mauriat

Albost Musical Instruments Co Ltd, the company behind P. Mauriat saxophones and other wind instruments, was founded by Alex Mingmann Hsieh, a saxophone enthusiast, in 1998. A student at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Hsieh had already developed strong ideas on the sound quality, playability and looks of an instrument during his formative years in the military, where he played the French horn. As the millennium approached, Hsieh resolved to bring his vision to fruition, and the P. Mauriat brand was born.

## Mission

P. Mauriat was created to ensure that musical instruments of the highest quality were easily accessible to everyone, enabling musicians of all standards to enjoy the finest sound quality. P. Mauriat's aim is to deliver 'the dream horn of the future' to the modern-day musician, producing the highest grades of build quality, sound and performance with every instrument. Despite continually pushing the boundaries of what can be achieved, improvement and refinement remains the aim; to this end, regular testing, feedback and critique is sought from endorsing artists, professional players and hobbyists in order to facilitate new advances, and the challenge of turning a good instrument into a great one remains a constant, unrelenting objective.

## Instrument production

Every P. Mauriat instrument is handmade, bringing out the innate characteristics and sound of each exclusive



model. The company employs around 35 people, 12 of whom are employed in the company's factory in Taipei, Taiwan. The craftsmanship that goes into each instrument is second to none, with every step of the production process given as much time as is necessary for the required result to be achieved. Hand production is preferred over automated machine work wherever possible; for instance, the French brass employed in the creation of every saxophone is exceptionally resonant due to the extensive hand-hammering process it must undergo in the factory. In fact, a single saxophone body will be hammered as many as 400 times before it is allowed to proceed to the next technician for final shaping. Each tone hole is drawn from the saxophone, one by one, to ensure the

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precision and consistency required in order to achieve excellent response and intonation, a manufacturing process that is unique to P. Mauriat and something the company prides itself on. Lacquering is completed in three separate stages in order to achieve a timeless, vintage look that will last for decades, before the instrument begins the final phase of production, the process of hand engraving. This painstaking work is performed by one of P. Mauriat's specialists, armed with nothing more than a simple handheld tool and years of experience. Once complete, each instrument is carefully inspected and tested by a full-time quality control artist to ensure that only the finest instruments make their way into the hands of musicians. P. Mauriat's instruments are enjoyed by players of all abilities, from keen amateurs through to top-level touring professionals.

## Endorsing artists

P. Mauriat's growing roster of endorsing artists is made up of players from all corners of the world, covering a wide variety of nationalities and musical styles. As well as providing a home for established acts from the traditional brass-based worlds of blues, soul and jazz, P. Mauriat seeks to embrace players from modern musical settings, giving younger acts a platform on which to build their careers. Among the most

recent additions to the P. Mauriat stable of talent include John Waugh, who, along with teaching and performing session work, records and tours with pop rock band The 1975; and Evgeny Minev, a London-based saxophonist and the first Bulgarian to sign an endorsement deal with P. Mauriat. He is set to release his debut album in 2018.

The music of today demands an instrument that can adapt and excel in a number of different settings and applications. Constructed using top-quality French brass, P. Mauriat saxophones exhibit fantastic response, full-bodied sound, precise intonation and outstanding mechanics, allowing each player to freely transmit their musical ideas, and to realise their maximum potential. ■

For more information about P. Mauriat instruments, distributed in the UK and ROI by JHS, visit [www.jhs.co.uk](http://www.jhs.co.uk).

*P. Mauriat*®

Go for the Sound