P. Mauriat Influence, Le Bravo 200: *Saxophone Tone Zones*

If you prefer saxophones with rolled tone holes, give P. Mauriat's Influence a playtest. The dark-lacquered professional series (67RX alto and 66RX tenor) features tone holes that, instead of being soldered on, are actually drawn out from the body of the horn's existing material. The resulting increase in response and resonance is nothing short of amazing, and reminds of various vintage pro model saxes.

The feel of the Influence is strikingly different than other high-end saxes. The horns are outfitted with oversized nickel-silver key touches that resemble flute keys and give the player an enhanced sense of the instrument's resonant vibrations. The keys might not be the fastest on the market today, but they sure flow nicely under your fingers.

P. Mauriat's Le Bravo 200 line features the same bore and hole placement as the Influence series, but instead features straight tone holes and a brushed, high-gloss finish. Combining resonant red brass with a silver Super VI neck, the Le Bravo alto and tenor provide an edgier, brighter sound with tighter focus and punch.

A big band gig proved a great testing session for the two lines. Overall, members of the sax section agreed that the Influence models sounded especially sweet on straightahead swing charts and bebop passages, while the Le Bravos really shone with brilliant tone on the more contemporary arrangements. *—Ed Enright*

Influence 67RX alto and 66RX tenor saxophones

» **Product information:** pmauriatmusic.com
» **Distributor Germany:** dmvertrieb.de
» **Distributor Benelux:** jtmusic.nl