

excess low note resonance in the area of the neck and body where the low notes are produced. As a result, powerful clarity is added to the low register and then carried out at the tail end, or bout of the guitar, by an added 1/2" of depth. Also included are two, removable, ebony f-hole covers which, along with the tapered design, virtually eliminate feedback.

Sporting unique features and accents on its traditionally based design and details that are important to the player, the Jazzica is a jazz guitar that's attractive to today's working professionals, part-timers or hobbyists and serious guitar students. The look of the instrument is unique, yet simple and comfortable. The Hofner Jazzica isn't trying too hard to be different. Its innovation comes for practical reasons, as the result of finding solutions to common problems that have plagued jazz guitarists for nearly seventy years. It's about time somebody figured it out! With the Jazzica, there is no more need for ugly tape to cover the f-holes, or foam to stuff the hollow-body and suck up the sound that you initially chose the instrument for.

My search is over! As a built-in, two humbucking pick-up, hollow-body player for many years, I began to realize that something was missing. And although Wes is the man, fortunately for me, that didn't mean that I needed an L-5 to do what I needed to be done. The Jazzica produces a subtly, unique sound that's comparable to the finest instruments and allows me to add what I can to make it sound like me.

The Hofner Jazzica is the new working-man's guitar and like the Gibson L-5 of some forty years ago, if in the right hands, it should one day emerge as the modern day jazz guitar of choice. ♪

— Bobby Broom

Read Bobby Broom's interview in this issue of *Jazz Improv Magazine*.



Hofner Jazzica Model Archtop

Doug cautions that if you do have to do a little sanding to adjust the fit, that you file the foam carefully so you don't take it down too much. Doug also, expressed that the foam is high density and very stable, so it should not harm the finish or react with guitar polishes. For those with floating pickups where the wires are fed through the lower F hole into the guitar, the Plug can be cut or trimmed to accommodate. The top cover of the foam ~~is a black piece of plastic that~~ is shaped just like the F hole and is slightly larger than the F hole, so it keeps the foam from falling through into your guitar. From a few feet away it is difficult to tell that the plugs are even in the guitar.

The plugs were tested using a Stromberg Montreaux guitar and a Fender Princeton amp, both in the studio and on a gig. The plugs worked beautifully in both settings. Getting to hear one's self at a gig means standing very close to the amp, which, as we know often leads to feedback. Not with Doug's plugs though. I had no trouble turning up loud enough to hear myself over the drums and didn't need to move away from my amp or back off on the volume or tone pot at all because I had no feedback. Overall, your guitar will probably still have a couple of spots where some feedback might occur, but the plugs eliminate most of it even at high volumes. Doug's Plugs are a clever, effective and attractive way to virtually eliminate feedback from your arch top guitar without sacrificing tone or looks. Great product!

Retail price: \$50.00 plus \$4.60 shipping & handling. Visit Doug's Plugs: www.dougsplugs.com or email: d-lturner@juno.com ("Doug's Plugs" in the subject line)

— Eric Elias

Doug's Plugs

Arch Top Guitar Feedback Eliminator

One of the most common challenges for arch top guitar players is dealing with feedback when amplified. For those of us who play with drummers, getting decent volume is crucial to being heard. Because of the arch top's acoustic qualities though, feedback goes hand in hand with it. Players have tried all kinds of gimmicks to deal with this issue. I have seen many players try everything from foam pieces stuffed in the F holes to duct taping over the F holes and even electronic effects and filters in order to suppress feedback. None of which is very productive. Those of us who play arch top guitars most likely do so because we like the sound and feel of an arch top, otherwise we'd play solid or semi-hollow body guitars. So we put up with the feedback or use alternative devices to deal with the problem. Using effects though can filter our sound and certainly duct tape and stuffed pieces of foam aren't aesthetically pleasing. Doug's

Plugs appear to be a great alternative to all of these so-called "solutions."

Doug's Plugs are a made out of black, high density EVA foam that are shaped like an F hole, in fact they are shaped specifically for the F holes on your particular guitar. Doug Turner custom makes F hole plugs for each specific arch top. Simply send Doug a pencil rubbing of the F holes on your arch top (I needed to remove my pick guard to do this with the lower hole on my guitar). Within two weeks the plugs arrive. Doug includes an Emory board with each set of plugs so they can get a final adjustment to fit properly. The two that I received fit perfectly right out of the box.

An archtop with Doug's plug laying over the strings near the F hole.

