

## PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

A tailpiece designed to increase resonance by extending the length of vibrating string below the bridge



**TAILPIECE** When double bassist Zoran Marković tried an instrument by Domenico Dragonetti seven years ago, he was ecstatic: 'It was like tasting the most beautiful chocolate: the sound was amazing.'

In part he put this down to the instrument's gut strings, but was disappointed when gut made little sound on his own bass.

Frustrated, he snapped a nearby tailpiece in half and tried to play using that, in the hope that giving the strings more freedom below the bridge would increase overall resonance.

It worked: 'When I played, my son started to cry because everything started to shake in my apartment!'

Since then, Marković has gradually reshaped his tailpiece, trying to maximise string and wood vibration to reduce wolf tones, create an even overall timbre and produce a richer, freer and more malleable sound. At the outset, he enlisted the help of an engineer to make some three-dimensional drawings. 'I must have made hundreds of prototypes,' he says. 'In the end I had the idea of using the Pythagoras system to calculate the size.' The resulting model – the first that he has marketed – is built on the golden ratio. The vertical distance between the string holes varies according to the vibrating length of each string, and the left side of the tailpiece is so truncated that an elongated bottom string has been made by Thomastik to fit it. Other brands, Marković hopes, will soon follow suit.

Marković admits that many sceptics have been reluctant to try his alternative to a fixture that has remained so little changed for centuries. Nevertheless, he has caught the attention of some more adventurous musicians and is confident of making more converts.

The tailpiece is available in pear wood, macassar ebony, rosewood and ebony for violin, viola, cello and double bass, and can be fitted by any luthier.

**Zoran Marković Tailpiece** violin €182–€199; viola €190–€208; cello €218–€234; double bass €230–€260

Email [info@zmtsound.com](mailto:info@zmtsound.com)

Website [www.zmtsound.com](http://www.zmtsound.com)



## How to hook a bassist

**BOW HOLDER** Store your bow safely during lengthy pizzicato passages using this lightweight holder. Its plastic and rubber body clips on to your belt or waistband so that you can use its hook – coated in protective rubber and cloth – to keep your bow close to hand.

**Arco Clip Hook** £11

Website [www.arcocliphook.co.uk](http://www.arcocliphook.co.uk)

## A smooth shave



**WOOD CARVER** This small device fits into any rotary tool with a quarter-inch flexible shaft, such as an electric drill. It can be used in place of a gouge,

both with roughing and in the final stages of making, and is easy to sharpen. To carve, gently push it forward and let electricity do the work.

**Denker reversible 1/4 inch shank rotary carver** \$49.95

Email [jmndenker@comcast.net](mailto:jmndenker@comcast.net)

Website [www.denkerdesign.com](http://www.denkerdesign.com)

## Travel safe

**CASE** This case is identical to BAM's Hightech model inside, but has an outside layer of polyurethane leather to protect it against knocks when you're on the road.

Backpack straps and a padded handle give added carrying comfort, and there is a combination lock for security. Available in black for violin and viola.

**BAM Connection case** slim violin €390; oblong violin €560; oblong viola €700

Website [www.bamcases.com](http://www.bamcases.com)

