

Inventor makes music with PC instrument

By Frank Arceneaux
CORRESPONDENT

Helping children choose the right instrument will be easier, it seems, as music teacher David Heintz's new invention takes hold.

Heintz, who has taught music for 22 years, is creating a pencil as a hybrid clarinet, brass and flute mouthpiece for designed to help young children decide if they have what takes to play a musical instrument without trying every instrument to try out.

He's also formed a company (Chaffey LLC) in Palm, Fla., and

he is working with custom molders Johnson Precision Inc. of Lakeland, Fla., to design and produce a polycarbonate clariflute.

The orders are starting to come in, but it will take a year to come up with the design.

"One of the age-old problems in starting students is how they choose the instrument," Heintz said in a telephone interview.

He said that most kids ask its cheapest is available, others want to avoid and give pressure, and still others pick because of images they see or what instrument is most frequently playing to them.

"We're looking for a way to provide exposure" to different instruments, he said.

With the clariflute, a student can use one instrument and, by turning it different ways, he or she experiences what it like to play the mouthpiece of a clarinet, a trumpet or a flute.

"What we was making was something that was desirable enough for

every child.

The idea, according to Heintz, has been something he's been pondering since he was 10th grade and started playing a trumpet that happened to be made brass. He got into teaching music, he saw a steel and featured with various possibilities.

Heintz' early version had aluminum. Heintz said plastic clarinet mouthpieces and brass mouthpieces afford a PC pipe.

As he applied for the patent, he also approached a number of companies about the idea. Johnson Precision stepped forward to work with him.

"We went through a develop-

mental process and got the design," he said, noting that the idea progressed as he moved to rapid prototyping.

Lydia Jones, the manufacturing coordinator at JPI, said that most a three-dimensional model was turned into something that Heintz could actually handle, the process became much more feasible.

He said the process took a few months, but the minute matters, each turning the weight of the part by a few grams, and subtle changes to the curve of the in-



A single clariflute mouthpiece, from left, uses three different mouthpieces.

strument created the right feel. There was also the concern of keeping-out dirt by allowing it to fit a standard mouthpiece.

"It is one of the more unique things we've done and it really worked really well," he said, by looking many times." Jones said.

Heintz has a consultant from one school system, and he is now making the idea to other music teachers.

DuPont invests \$500M in Kevlar

By Frank Arceneaux
CORRESPONDENT

Increased demand for body armor and other safety and security products has led DuPont

Co. to announce a \$500 million capacity expansion for its Kevlar-based para-aramid fiber and polymer.

The expansion is the largest in the product's 33-year history, at

Heintz with Wilmington, Del.-based DuPont said. The first phase of the project will boost Kevlar polymer capacity to 100,000 tons. That project will be launched later this year and will

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