



HUBER TRUETONE

the next leap forward in five string banjo innovation



Jim Rae analyzing a pre war ring

Q: *What happens when you combine the discriminating ears of master banjo craftsmen, 46 years experience researching vibratory physics, and 14 exceptional pre war banjos?*

A: *The Huber Truetone system - the next leap forward in five string banjo innovation.*

Q: *How do you make the best even better?*

A: *Very carefully.*

Huber Banjos have been regarded as the finest new banjos on the market since they were introduced ten years ago. Top touring professionals like Sammy Shelor, Jim Mills, Ron Block, Jason Burleson and many others depend on their Hubers to deliver for them day in and day out.

Now, with the completion of more than two years of research and development, we can announce the arrival of the Huber Truetone. That sound, feel and crystal-clear tone associated with the most sought-after pre war flatheads is now within the reach of the average banjo player.

Our analysis showed that Huber's tone ring alloy was dead-on, so we began to examine a variety of methods and processes, searching for a result that would replicate the pre war spec Doc Rae had discovered.

Dozens of test pours were made, with each set of castings carefully analyzed and compared our pre war standard. After months of testing, it was discovered that an older, and far more costly casting method was required to achieve these characteristics.

When it comes to the true, pre war sound, the HR-30 delivers... in spades!



Jim Rae and Steve Huber

The Truetone project got off the ground with Steve Huber, noted banjoist, unrivaled banjo innovator/builder, and noted authority on pre war flatheads. Steve's research into the alloy used in pre war flathead banjos brought his Vintage Flathead tone ring to market, and revitalized the interest in pre war banjo replication that is in full flower today. Once his banjo building operation was humming along, and he had more time to ponder intangibles, his mind turned to the question of why certain pre war banjos stood out above others - the best of the best, if you will.

Huber enlisted the help of Dr. Jim Rae (Doc Rae, as he is known), a recently-retired research scientist at Mayo Clinic, who brought to the table his 40 plus years of clinical experience and the banjo measurement apparatus he designed for this purpose.



The Huber Truetone system is powered by our new HR-30 tone ring and engineered rim. Both were developed over many months of careful measurement and analysis of more than a dozen exceptional pre war flathead banjos. The result is the finest new banjo you can buy - hands down!



Doc Rae's testing apparatus

HEAR WHAT A LITTLE SCIENCE CAN DO!



Rim testing at Huber's in 2009



Bryan Sims planing rim slats



All Huber banjos are made with:

- one piece flange
- rosewood or ebony fingerboard
- presto-style tailpiece
- Waverly V-2 tuners
- hard shell case
- limited lifetime warranty
- Huber maple/ebony bridge
- one piece armrest
- one piece zinc flange
- brass tension hoop
- steel coordinator rods
- 2 way adjustable truss rod
- Huber head

If you own a pre-Truetone Huber, or any modern Mastertone-style banjo, we can install the HR-30 ring and Engineered Rim at a fraction of the cost of a new instrument.

Together, they analyzed the internal vibrations and emitted sound properties of 14 exceptional pre war flatheads, and set to work determining how to use this extensive research to design a tone ring and rim that would mimic these prewar vibratory properties.

A great deal of metal was poured and lumber milled in that final, time-consuming process.

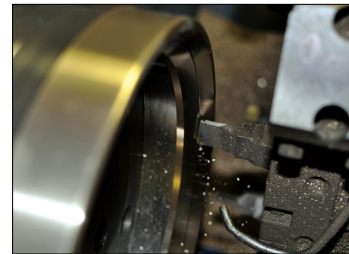


Bryan Sims with a batch of engineered rims

As important as the tone ring is to a banjo's sound, the rim is the foundation on which it rests. What our testing revealed is that not just any piece of wood is capable of delivering the rich tone and quick response associated with pre war banjos. Doc Rae discovered the properties that are required for a great rim, and we grade and process our wood with particular care to match his profile.



A stack of gold pre war rings used in testing



Machining an HR-30 tone ring



Measuring wood for an engineered rim

Just as guitar, mandolin and violin makers choose only the finest wood for their instruments, we select only wood that fits our prewar spec for the Huber engineered rim. This results in a lot of waste, but gets us the optimum in tone.



The Huber shop staff (left to right):
Casey Sullivan, Steve Huber, Jim Runnells, Bennie Bolling

"The Huber Truetone System is the culmination of my many years of studying and researching the science behind the great prewar banjos.

And it really is a system rather than a model. The interaction between the HR-30 and the Engineered Rim replicates the way the old rims and rings vibrate, and I firmly believe that installing this system can bring any banjo closer to the elusive tone of the prewar flatheads.

If you own a pre-Truetone Huber, or any modern Mastertone-style banjo, we can install the HR-30 ring and Engineered Rim at a fraction of the cost of a new banjo.

Of course the Truetone System reaches its pinnacle in the Huber Truetone banjos shown in this catalog. Here all of the components are perfectly matched to deliver the most responsive banjo you've ever played, with the widest dynamic range, and greatest variety of tones you've ever heard.

Steve Huber



HUBER TRUETONE VINTAGE SERIES



TRUETONE VRB-G



TRUETONE VRB-4

VRB-G

- Gold plating
- Granada engraving
- Curly maple
- Golden sunburst
- Double cut headstock
- HR-30 tone ring
- Engineered rim
- Amber gumdrop buttons
- Hearts & Flowers or Flying eagle inlay
- White/black/white binding

\$5975

VRB-4

- Chrome plating
- Walnut/figured walnut
- Double cut headstock
- HR-30 tone ring
- Engineered rim
- Flying eagle or Hearts & Flowers inlay
- White/black/white binding

\$5595

HUBER TRUETONE VINTAGE SERIES

VRB-75

- Antique nickel plating
- Straight grain maple neck
- Double cut headstock
- Mahogany resonator
- HR-30 tone ring
- Engineered rim
- 1941 style 75 inlay
- Other prewar inlays available
- Antiqued white binding
- Amber tulip buttons

\$5350

VRB-3

- Antique nickel plating
- Mahogany
- Double cut headstock
- HR-30 tone ring
- Engineered rim
- Style 3 inlay
- Other prewar inlays available
- Antiqued white binding

\$5295



TRUETONE VRB-75

TRUETONE VRB-3

HUBER TRUETONE ARTIST SERIES



RON BLOCK MODEL



SAMMY SHELOR MODEL



RON BLOCK

- Gold plating
- Block engraving
- Curly maple
- Hearts & Petals inlay
- HR-30 tone ring
- Engineered rim
- Fiddle headstock
- White/black/white binding
- Clamshell tailpiece

\$5975

SAMMY SHELOR

- Nickel plating
- Mahogany
- Birds & Bows inlay
- Wider, radiused board
- HR-30 tone ring
- Engineered rim
- Antiqued binding

\$5320

HUBER TRUETONE ORIGINAL SERIES

LEXINGTON

- Gold plating
- Lexington engraving
- Curly maple
- Golden sunburst
- Original Huber inlay
- Vintage tone ring
- Vintage rim
- White/black/white binding

\$4900

LANCASTER

- Mahogany
- Original Huber inlay
- Vintage tone ring
- Vintage rim
- White binding

\$4100



LEXINGTON



LANCASTER



HUBER TRUETONE ORIGINAL SERIES

ROANOKE

- Nickel plating
- Walnut/figured wal
- Original Huber inlay
- Vintage tone ring
- Vintage rim
- White/black/white binding

\$4150

KALAMAZOO

- Nickel plating
- Straight maple neck
- Mahogany resonator
- Original Huber inlay
- Radiused fingerboard
- Vintage tone ring
- Vintage rim
- White binding

\$4400



HUBER HR-30 TONE RING

\$785 NICKEL \$825 GOLD

When only the very best is good enough.



The Huber HR-30 ring is part of what defines our Truetone system. It is, without question, the most accurate replica of the vaunted prewar flathead tone rings ever manufactured - since the 1930s, that is.

It duplicates not only the physical characteristics (alloy, dimensions, weight), but also the acoustical properties of these prized prewar rings.

During the research stage of Truetone development, we measured 14 exceptional prewar rings to plot how they responded to vibrational energy at 8,000 frequencies (0 to 8000 Hz), and also how well this energy was transferred to a rim.

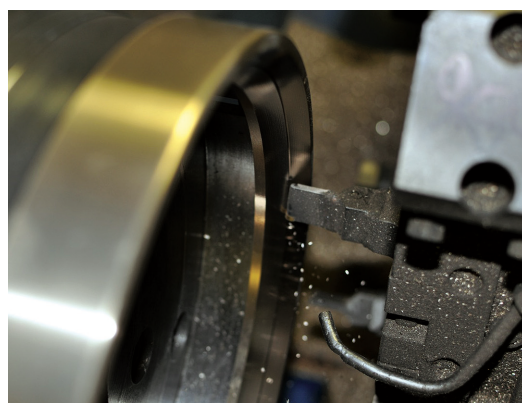
With this information as a benchmark, Steve was able to make minor adjustments to the casting and machining of the Huber rings until they matched the same output specs as the prewars.

Blind testing of the HR-30 in an otherwise original flathead pot confirmed that even serious prewar connoisseurs were unable to hear a difference.

All Huber rings are machined and plated in house, ensuring that they are manufactured to the exacting demands required for a prewar reproduction ring of the finest quality.

The HR-30 is installed in all Huber Truetone banjos, and can be cut to fit any existing rim - both for aftermarket retrofits and custom-fitted for vintage and prewar rims. The same is true for our Engineered rim.

When only the best is good enough, the Huber HR-30 is your only choice.



Upgrade your banjo to the HR-30