



P R O D U C T C A T A L O G U E





*Altus*  
Handmade Flutes

## FLUTES OF SUPERB QUALITY & CRAFTSMANSHIP

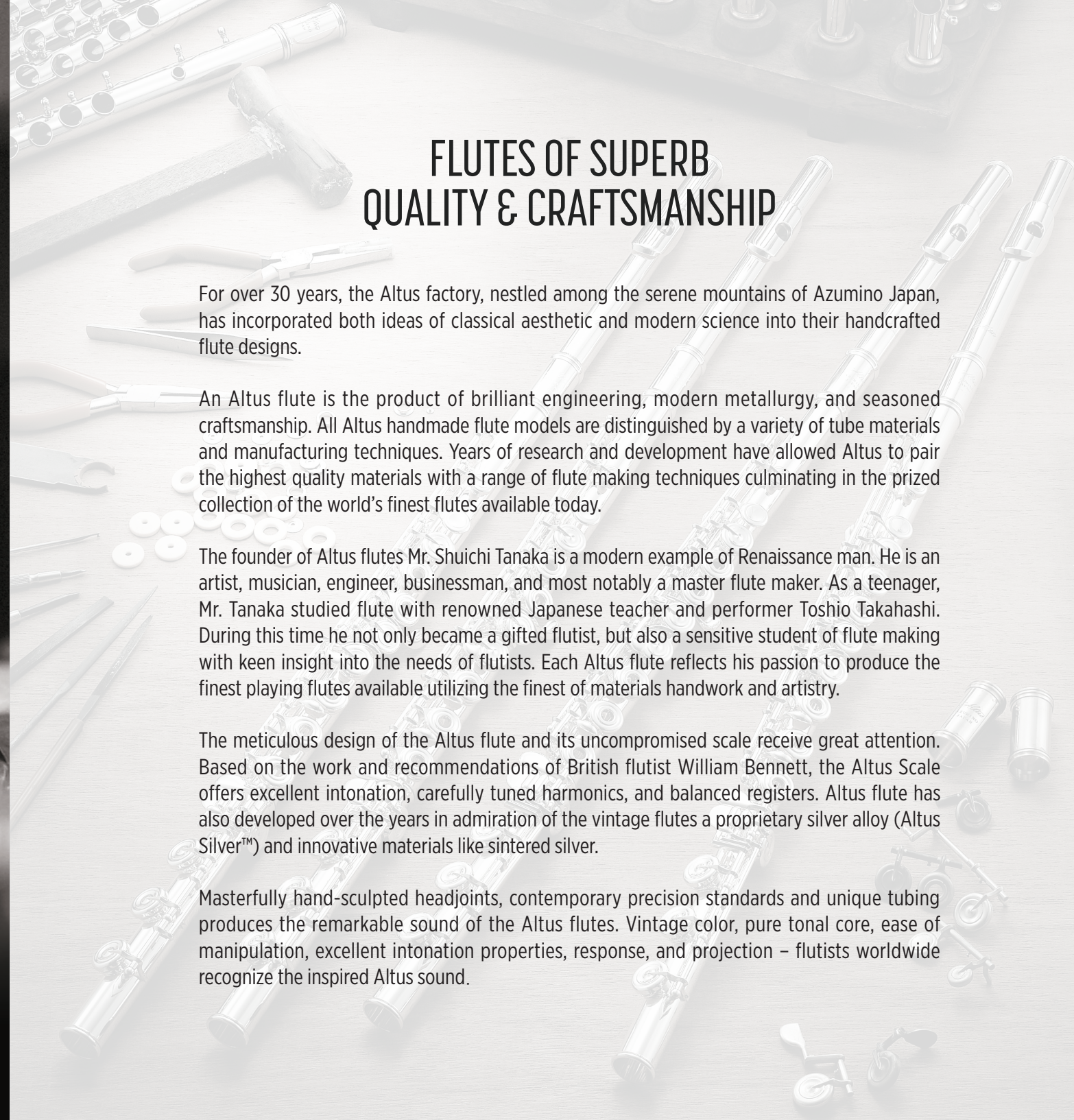
For over 30 years, the Altus factory, nestled among the serene mountains of Azumino Japan, has incorporated both ideas of classical aesthetic and modern science into their handcrafted flute designs.

An Altus flute is the product of brilliant engineering, modern metallurgy, and seasoned craftsmanship. All Altus handmade flute models are distinguished by a variety of tube materials and manufacturing techniques. Years of research and development have allowed Altus to pair the highest quality materials with a range of flute making techniques culminating in the prized collection of the world's finest flutes available today.

The founder of Altus flutes Mr. Shuichi Tanaka is a modern example of Renaissance man. He is an artist, musician, engineer, businessman, and most notably a master flute maker. As a teenager, Mr. Tanaka studied flute with renowned Japanese teacher and performer Toshio Takahashi. During this time he not only became a gifted flutist, but also a sensitive student of flute making with keen insight into the needs of flutists. Each Altus flute reflects his passion to produce the finest playing flutes available utilizing the finest of materials handwork and artistry.

The meticulous design of the Altus flute and its uncompromised scale receive great attention. Based on the work and recommendations of British flutist William Bennett, the Altus Scale offers excellent intonation, carefully tuned harmonics, and balanced registers. Altus flute has also developed over the years in admiration of the vintage flutes a proprietary silver alloy (Altus Silver™) and innovative materials like sintered silver.

Masterfully hand-sculpted headjoints, contemporary precision standards and unique tubing produces the remarkable sound of the Altus flutes. Vintage color, pure tonal core, ease of manipulation, excellent intonation properties, response, and projection – flutists worldwide recognize the inspired Altus sound.







## Tubing

**Seamed Tubing** – Made from a flat piece of metal that is rolled, hand planished and then seamed, the Altus seamed tube is truly the only handmade flute tube available in modern production. Altus seamed tubes are slightly thinner and handmade in a choice of two types of silver – Britannia silver (1607) and Altus Silver™ (AL).

**Sintered Tubing** – A process unique to Altus where powdered silver metal is compacted at a high temperature to fuse particles together directly into a rigid tube.

**Extruded Tubing** – Metal is drawn over a mandrel through a precise die to form a tube. This construction is the modern standard in the flute industry.

## Metallurgy

Altus leads the way in providing an unprecedented array of tubing and material choices for the needs of discerning flutists. By combining old world craftsmanship with modern alloys and tubing construction, an incredible range of flutes can be tailored to the specific needs of any flutist. Altus provides the most unique variety of flute tubing and materials in the world today.

## Alloys

**Altus Silver™** – Our proprietary Altus Silver™ alloy is a perfectly engineered blend consisting of 94.6% silver and several precious metals, including small amounts of platinum and gold. Inspired by the preferred metallurgy of the great French flute making tradition, Altus silver was designed specifically for seamed tube creation. This results in a flute capable of producing a wide array of complex tonal colors.

**997 Silver** – Our exclusive high purity silver tube is made possible only through highly innovative sinter technology. Sinter technology creates mechanically- and physically -enhanced tubes by compacting the silver powder under great pressure, which solves the problem of pure silver being too soft for traditional flute making. This unique process produces a dense and brilliant hard silver tube with supreme projecting qualities.

**Britannia Silver** – A traditionally created silver alloy composed of 95.8% silver. The remaining common metals balance a dark, rich tonal color without sacrificing brilliance.

**Sterling Silver** – Comprised of 92.5% silver, Sterling has long been the industry standard for making high quality flutes.

**Gold** – a deluxe material with its superior properties like density, softness, malleability, ductility, gold is unaffected by air and most reagents, making it a good material for making flutes. Altus Flutes offers 18K and 14K Gold. These alloys provide different sound qualities that meet different needs of flutists.



WILLIAM BENNETT

*World Renowned Musician  
Professor at Royal Academy of Music*

Altus Model **AL**

# SCALE™

The Altus flute is founded on friendships, collaborations, intense research, and a passionate devotion to music as an essential part of life.

Altus flute maker Shuichi Tanaka and renowned British flutist William Bennett shared an admiration for Albert Cooper's vision of updating and modernizing the traditional flute scale. Bennett combined his vast performance experience and quest for precise intonation with Mr. Tanaka's flute making vision to create the Altus Scale.

An instrument's scale is determined by the size and placement of each of the tone holes and their relationship to each other. This crucial design aspect allows flutists to play with accurate intonation and effortless tone.

The collaboration of Tanaka and Bennett set a new standard for flute design. The Altus Scale was carefully designed to provide effortless intonation, impeccably tuned harmonics, and exceptionally balanced registers. This monumental achievement is one of the hallmarks of the great Altus flute making tradition.





LORNA **MCGHEE**

*Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra  
Principal Flute*

Altus Model **AL**



DENIS **BOURIAKOV**

*LA Philharmonic Principal Flute*

Altus Model **PS**





MICHAEL **COX**

*BBC Symphony Orchestra Principal Flute  
Professor at Royal Academy of Music*

Altus Model **AL**



ALENA **VALENTIN**

*Royal Conservatory Hague  
Vice President of British Flute Society*

Altus Model **PS**





## HANDMADE SERIES



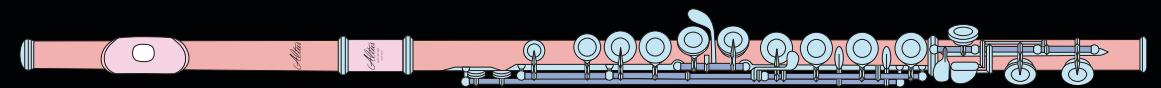


# Altus Silver™ 946

## AL

AL is an exclusive model made with our special alloy - Altus Silver™ with seamed tubing technology. It has a unique sound with full tonal color spectrum and unparalleled centered projection – the perfect marriage of vintage French flute tradition and modern seamed tubing technology.

AL was developed in admiration of the old French flute made in 19th century. To revive its beautiful sound, Altus analyzed the elements of silver materials at the time. Through trial and error, Altus finally succeeded in reproducing the sound with the component of 94.6% silver and several other metals. Hereafter, Ag946 became Altus Silver™ and is exclusive to Altus. For a customizable sound, heavy wall thickness option is available on AL.



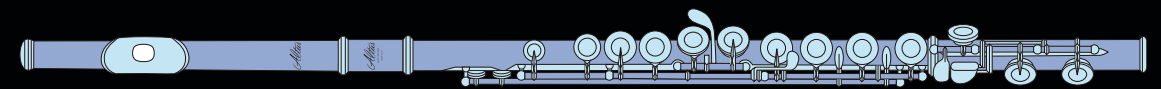
- Altus Silver™
- Sterling Silver
- Altus Silver™ Seamed Tube
- 997 Silver



# 997 Silver

## PS

A flute with a unique expressiveness and impeccable sonority. Our one-of-a-kind PS model is created with our exclusive high purity silver (Ag997), and the innovated sintered tubing technology. It is an exemplification of the utmost brilliance which not only the flutist can feel the vibration of the instrument, but the audience also becomes captivated by its tonal beauty. The combination of material and technology innovation has made it possible for our PS model to produce the characteristic, powerful, dynamic, and pure sound that conventional high purity silver flutes have never been able to express before.



- 997 Silver
- Sterling Silver



# Soldered Tone Hole

The handmade soldered tone hole silver flutes are professional silver flutes that feature exceptional tone color and playing experience with the undercutting. Altus uses gold solder which is excellent in durability to support the growth of the flute's sound.

## 1407

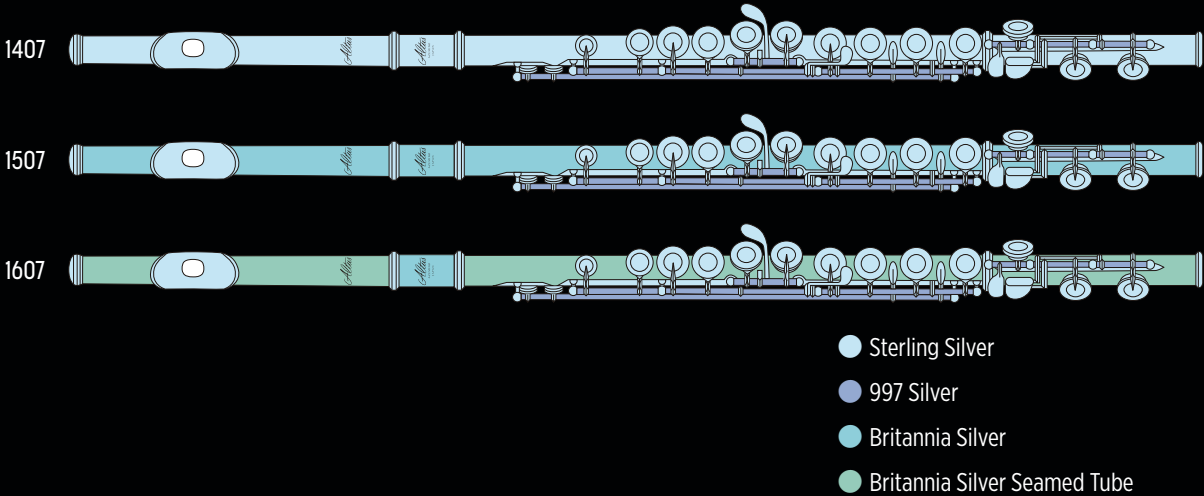
A flute with classic and time-honored existence. Adopting sterling silver, 1407 enables flutists to sing with a wide and generous projection, equipping with a swift and vast color palette that is particular to silver material. It is the most standard model in Soldered Tone Hole Series.

## 1507

A flute with clarity and profound character. Adopting a higher purity precious metal: Britannia silver (Ag958), 1507 enables the flutists to voice with more depth and produce vast tone colors. This model comes with two other options for tubing: medium heavy and heavy wall, which gives any flutist their customizable characters.

## 1607

A flute of sophistication and boundless possibilities. In addition to Britannia silver, 1607 adopts the seamed tubing method on the head joint and body tube. It also has a full tonal color which creates a vintage-like sound. With stable and continuous vibration, it enables the flutist to express lasting emotions.





# Drawn Tone Hole

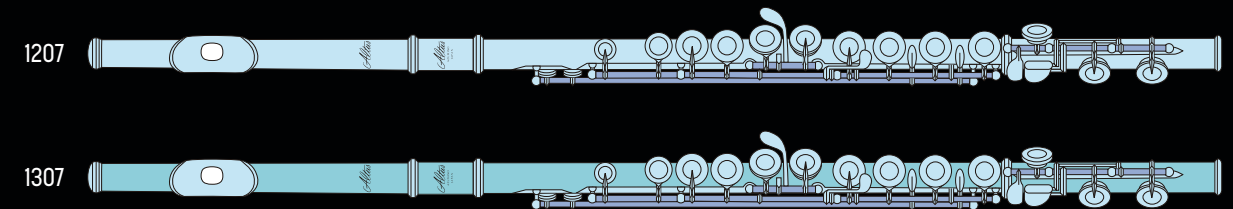
The handmade drawn tone hole silver flutes are introduction models that feature lighter weight and less feeling of resistance when playing. The free-blowing quality enables flutists to manipulate and express with ease.

## 1207

A classic model, 1207 is a standard flute adopting sterling silver which produces a resonant sound with balanced tonal palette that all Altus models are equipped with. Sterling silver has been used for centuries in the history of flute making and has been a common choice for flutist of all kinds.

## 1307

A step-up model, 1307 adopts Britannia silver which features pure ringing sound with more depth. This model comes with two other options for tubing: medium heavy and heavy wall, which provides flexibility for flutists with a desire for personal characteristics.



- Sterling Silver
- 997 Silver
- Britannia Silver





# Gold

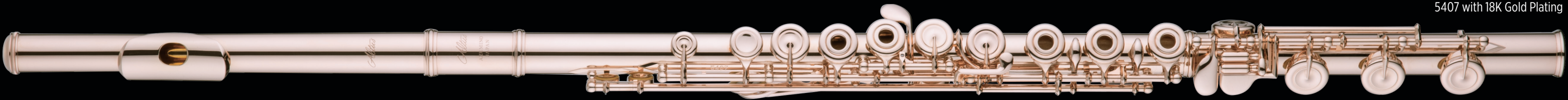
Any flute connoisseur's must-have. Altus offers 14K & 18K gold flutes with various options to choose from - from drawn to soldered tone holes. The representative models are 5207, 5407, 7207 and 7407.

## 18K Gold

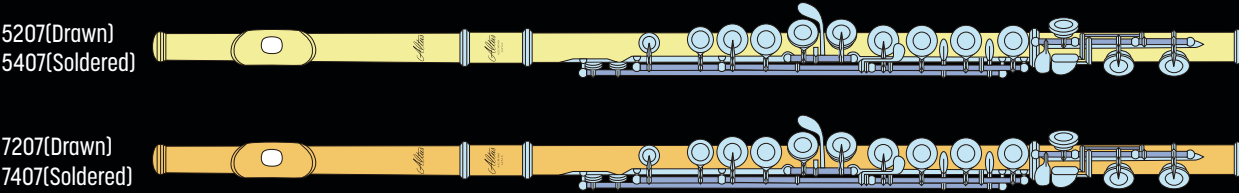
The 18K gold adds additional darkness to the variety of colors, turning the soprano nature of the C Flute into a more contralto timbre. Warm toned, 18K gold has a higher density and malleability in material which provides a comfortable resistance. This material has grown in popularity with professionals and performing artists.

## 14K Gold

14K gold flutes combine the best of both worlds, offering the rich and smooth colors of gold's unique blending ability, and silver's capacity for a large degree of projection. 14K gold's tone color is dark and warm and its response is both flexible and pure. This material has been fairly popular throughout the years.



5407 with 18K Gold Plating



- 14K Gold
- 18K Gold
- Sterling Silver
- 997 Silver



## **STANDARD** SERIES





# Standard Series

Standard Series serves as the perfect introduction to Altus's art and technology in decades of flute making. By finishing up with silver plating all over, Altus offers economic choices of consistent quality sharing the same Altus Scale™ and key design that are used on the handmade flutes.

## 807

A standard model with nickel silver, 807 features lip plate and riser that are made of the classic flute material: Sterling silver. While the lip plate and riser being the most important section on a flute, Sterling silver gives rise to a classic and clean sound.

## 907

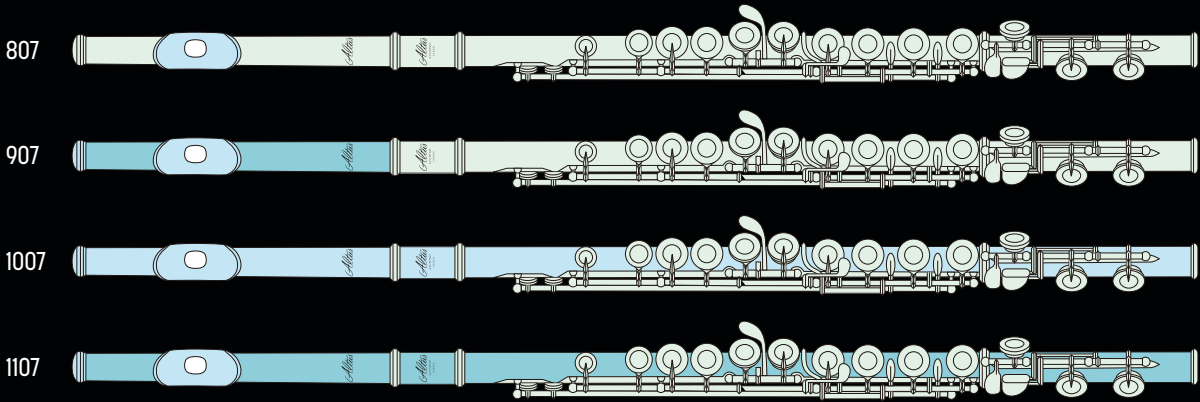
A combination of Sterling silver and Britannia silver on the headjoint, 907 features Sterling silver lip plate and riser, and adopts a higher purity silver on the headjoint: Britannia silver. This combination is one of Altus's features giving the flute a more sophisticated sound.

## 1007

A standard Sterling silver model. With the entire tube made with Sterling silver, 1007 not only offers a classic sound but also begins the journey to the exploration of easy, comfortable, and balanced playing experience.

## 1107

A standard Britannia silver model. With the entire tube made with the higher purity 958 silver, 1107 offers a profound resonance that gives rise to a different charisma with the Altus's balanced tone palette.



Standard Series are silver-plated all over.

- Nickel Silver
- Sterling Silver
- Britannia Silver





# HARMONY SERIES

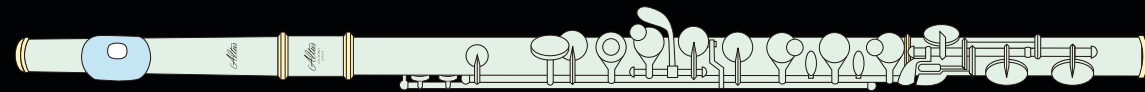




# Alto Flute

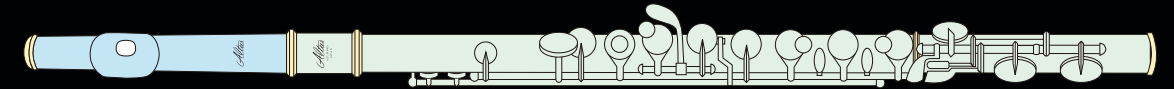
Altus Alto flutes are designed to suit the needs for players with different preferences. Altus offers Alto flutes with variations from Nickel silver to Sterling silver models; from straight to curved headjoint. Our specially-designed alto flute body joint provides comfort and ease for the serious flutists who prefer a straight headjoint. Its specially-designed key system features unique placement of the left hand finger buttons, which makes it more manageable to focus airflow on the straight head.

817 / 819 / 821 / 825



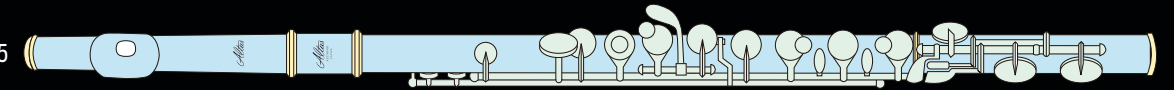
- 817 With straight headjoint
- 819 With U-shaped headjoint
- 821 With U-shaped and straight headjoints
- 825 With straight headjoint and specially-designed body joint

917 / 919 / 921 / 925



- 917 With straight headjoint
- 919 With U-shaped headjoint
- 921 With U-shaped and straight headjoints
- 925 With straight headjoint and specially-designed body joint

1017 / 1019 / 1021 / 1025



- 1017 With straight headjoint
- 1019 With U-shaped headjoint
- 1021 With U-shaped and straight headjoints
- 1025 With straight headjoint and specially-designed body joint

Alto Flutes are silver-plated all over.

- Nickel Silver
- Sterling Silver
- Yellow Brass

817



919



1025



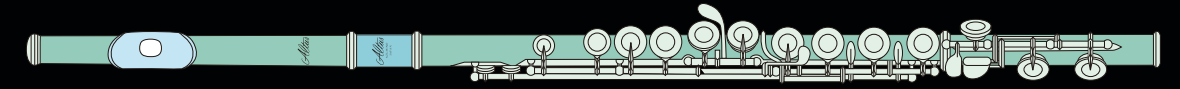


# Flute d'Amore

## 1009

Flute d'Amore combines the playing ease of a C flute with the haunting open sound of the alto flute for those wishing to incorporate a unique sultry sound into their repertoire. It has a larger bore than the standard C flute and is pitched in either B<sup>b</sup> or A.

**1009B<sup>b</sup> / 1009A** Features silver-plated seamed Britannia Silver body, Sterling Silver lip plate and Nickle Silver mechanism.



Flute d'Amore is silver-plated all over.

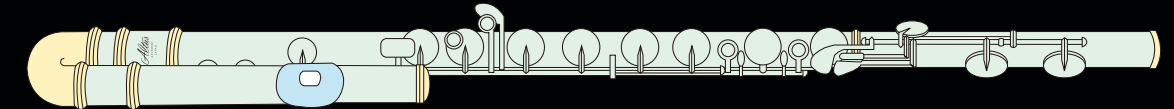
- Nickel Silver
- Sterling Silver
- Britannia Silver
- Britannia Silver Seamed Tube



# Bass Flute

## 823

**ALTUS BASS** flute is luscious and soothing as a solo instrument or in a flute ensemble. The exceptional intonation, ergonomic design, and precise mechanism make this bass flute shine as the clear choice for any professional player.



Bass Flute is silver-plated all over.

- Nickel Silver
- Sterling Silver
- Yellow Brass



# CUSTOMIZATION

Customization



*Altus*

*Altus*



# Headjoint

Each Altus flute comes complete with a professional, handcrafted headjoint.

## S-CUT

Altus headjoint comes standard with the S-Cut embouchure, renowned for producing the trademark Altus sound. With its oval shape, the headjoint produces a rich sound with flexibility and penetrating projection.

## Z-CUT™ (as an option)

With a more rectangular embouchure hole with minimal over and undercutting, this headjoint produces a quick response without sacrificing flexibility or control. It offers full projection over the entire range of the flute and a darker and more dramatic tone color.

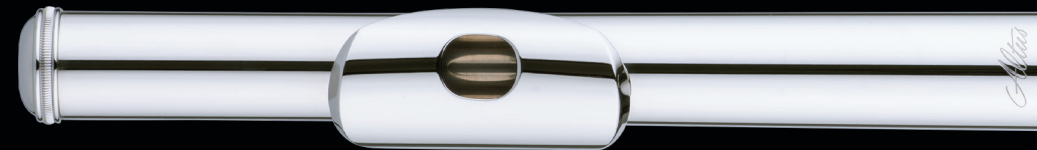
## VA-HEADJOINT

Altus has created one of its most powerful headjoints capable of producing an exceptional tonal depth without sacrificing flexibility. Featuring a high front wall and steep angled lip plate, this headjoint performs at the cutting edge of modern headjoint design. It comes with heavy crowns and 14K riser.

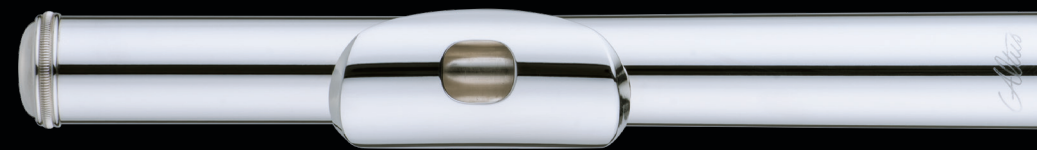
**LIP PLATE** -- 14K, 18K available (no platinum)

**RISER** -- 14K, 18K, Platinum available

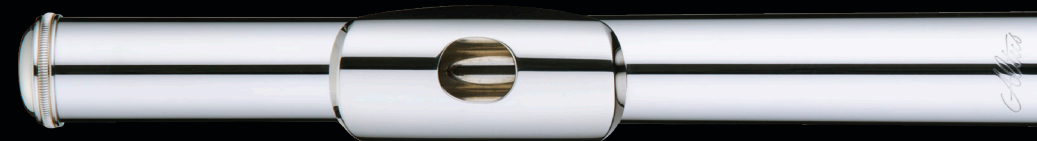
**S-CUT** standard on all Altus



**Z-CUT™**



**VA-HEADJOINT**



# Engraving

Engravings are available on Models 1207 and above. Customized design is quoted by special request.





Options

SPLIT-E MECHANISM

B-FOOTJOINT

D#-ROLLER

OPEN G#

GA-TRILL KEY

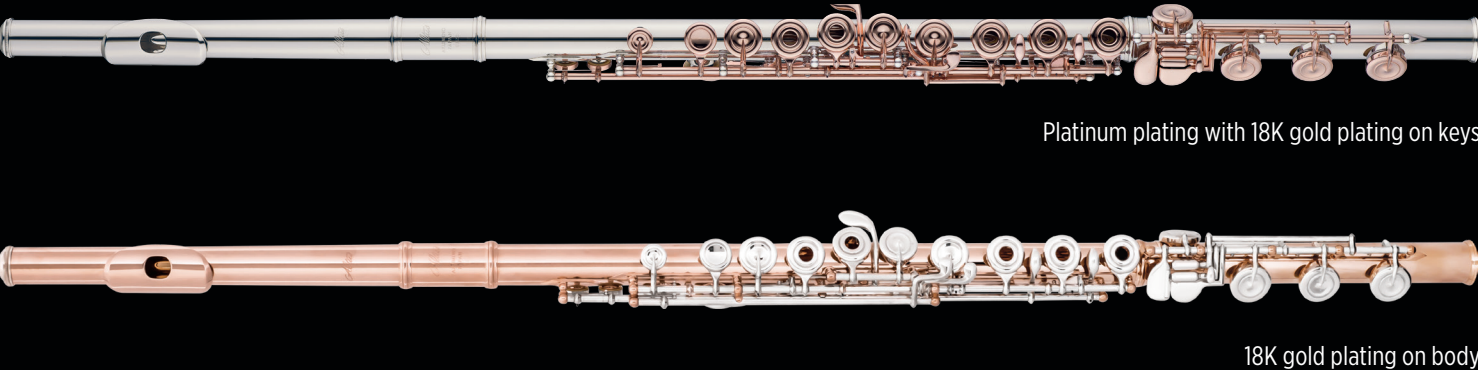
	B-foot	Split E Mechanism	Open G#	C# Trill	C#-D# Roller	G/A Trill	Medium Heavy Wall	Heavy Wall	Lip-plate/Riser Options	Engraving
807	●	● (offset only)	●	●	-	-	-	-	-	-
907	●	● (offset only)	●	●	-	-	-	-	-	-
1007	●	● (offset only)	●	●	-	-	-	-	-	-
1107	●	● (offset only)	●	●	-	-	-	-	-	-
1207	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	●	●
1307	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1407	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	●	●
1507	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1607	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	-	●	●
PS	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	●	●
AL	●	●	●	●	●	●	-	●	●	●
14K Gold	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●
18K Gold	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●

Platinum Plating

Altus offers plating options to all models. For Platinum-plated flutes, Altus recommends pairing with 18K gold-plated keys, which features an impeccable glamour and a nicer grip and touch while playing. The warmth and variety of color in silver is still the most dominant feature, but with the additional density and power that Platinum offers. All customization and prices are quoted by special request.

Gold Plating

18K Gold Plating adds the noticeable enhancements that gold has to offer. Because of its resistance to tarnishing, gold plating can be an assistance to the protection of silver flutes. In addition, the smoothness between registers and the dark timbres are characteristic of gold. Ease and capacity of projection is also achieved. All customization and prices are quoted by special request.



Platinum plating with 18K gold plating on keys

18K gold plating on body



# Accessories

- A. Leatherette covered wood case
- B. Leather covered wood case (Cowhide)
- C. Leather covered wood case (Lamb skin)
- D. Zippered, fleece lined cover and a shoulder strap
- E. Delicate leather case cover for protection and class
- F. Cleaning rod (Wood)
- G. Cleaning rod (Acrylic)
- H. Cleaning Swab
- I. Cleaning Cloth





# Specifications

Model No.	Lipplate/Riser	Headjoint	Body	Key	Key Pipe	Key Post	Tone Holes	Spring	Plating
STANDARD SERIES									
807	Ag925	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Drawn	Stainless Steel	Silver Plated
907	Ag925	Ag958	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Drawn	Stainless Steel	Silver Plated
1007	Ag925	Ag925	Ag925	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Drawn	Stainless Steel	Silver Plated
1107	Ag925	Ag958	Ag958	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Drawn	Stainless Steel	Silver Plated
HANDMADE SERIES									
1207	Ag925	Ag925	Ag925	Ag925	Ag997	Ag925	Drawn	SP-1	-
1307	Ag925	Ag958	Ag958	Ag925	Ag997	Ag925	Drawn	SP-1	-
1407	Ag925	Ag925	Ag925	Ag925	Ag997	Ag925	Soldered	SP-1	-
1507	Ag925	Ag958	Ag958	Ag925	Ag997	Ag925	Soldered	SP-1	-
1607	Ag925	Ag958 Seamed	Ag958 Seamed	Ag925	Ag997	Ag925	Soldered	SP-1	-
PS	Ag925	Ag997	Ag997	Ag925	Ag997	Ag925	Soldered	SP-1	-
AL	Ag946	Ag946 Seamed	Ag946 Seamed	Ag925	Ag997	Ag925	Soldered	SP-1	-
ALTO FLUTE									
817, 819, 821, 825	Ag925	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Drawn	Stainless Steel	Silver Plated
917, 919, 921, 925	Ag925	Ag925	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Drawn	Stainless Steel	Silver Plated
1017, 1019, 1021, 1025	Ag925	Ag925	Ag925	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Drawn	Stainless Steel	Silver Plated
BASS FLUTE									
823	Ag925	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Drawn	Steel	Silver Plated
FLUTE D'AMORE									
1009	Ag925	Ag958 Seamed	Ag958 Seamed	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Nickel Silver	Soldered	SP-1	Silver Plated

\*Pitch info: A=442  
A=440, 445 are available only on handmade models.





*Altus*<sup>®</sup>  
Handmade Flutes