

From Guitar and Bass Magazine, September 2008, pages 113-114:

**Vintage Vibe's HCCs have a meaty, clear hi-fi tone that's smooth and complex.**

"We got a taste of **Vintage Vibe's blade pickups** in Part 1, but this is arguably the closest you'll get to the classic tones of Charlie Christian and Barney Kessel without buying an Über-expensive repro and drilling three extra holes in the top of your guitar. Although we had a semi to test these pickups, I'm not sure it did them justice. The natural habitat for this HCC Set would surely be a big jazz box.

We tried a graded pair with Alnico III magnets, but Vintage Vibe supplies bar magnets that you can swap yourself to fine tune your tone with all the usual Alnico Grades, plus ceramic. They come with mounting rings that neatly conform to the Art Deco outline of these beautifully-made units. Although they're only wound to 6.9K and 7.5K, these pickups sound big and powerful. They're not bright, but display a meaty, clear hi-fi tone that allows all the nuances of your pick attack and the woodiness of the guitar to cut through while provoking any old valve amp into slight overdrive when you dig in. For a bit of extra brightness and attack we found the Alnico V and ceramic magnets worked a treat. These single-coil pickups owe little to the PAF tones associated with Gibson jazz guitars like the ES-175: they're more between a Strat and a P90 in tone, plus a lot more besides. They're super-smooth, sophisticated and complex and they'd be wasted on any guitarist who imagines that great jazz tone involves little more than rolling all the treble off a neck pickup and playing through a transistorized cube."