

“Bird”



Saxophonist and composer Charlie “Bird” Parker was one of the most influential jazz musicians of the bebop era. But he was also an accomplished flyer. After a rigorous saxophone practicing regimen caused his already powerful arms to develop airfoil-like traits, Parker began to imitate birds by jumping off hillsides and roofs. Often, he could get up to 20 feet off the ground, and his frequent recreational use of heroin got him even higher. Unfortunately, that addiction also precipitated a slew of horrific crashes, which eventually led Charlie to park his wings for good and just focus on music. While that was good news for the world of music, it nearly spelled curtains for the nascent D.I.Y. flying industry.