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# DW EDGE SNARE

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DW certainly aren't the oldest drum manufacturer on the block, but they've become one of the most prestigious in their comparatively brief 40-odd years of existence. They are known for their consistently high quality drum and percussive products, and this new snare drum doesn't dissuade one from believing in this reputation whatsoever. It's an absolute beauty.

## HEAVY, HEAVY FUEL

The first thing that you notice about the Edge snare is the *weight* of the instrument. It's an absolute beast. I have played a number of snare drums over the years, and this is by far the heaviest of the lot. Even passing it around to members of my band caused gasps of disbelief in the sheer heft of the thing. With this kind of mass often comes strength and quality, and this drum certainly adds weight to this theory. It feels utterly unbreakable. The only thing you need to worry about is dropping it on your foot!

As you'd imagine, the Edge snare is extremely well constructed. It very much has that tight, solid, high-quality feel that well-made things usually have – like a perfectly-maintained classic old car versus one of the mass-produced plastic things that car manufacturers smash out today. Consequently, it looks magnificent.

## DOES THE SOUND LOOK AND MATCH THE SOUND

Enough of the secondary stuff, I hear you say – what about the most important part? Well, straight out of the box and onto the snare stand the initial impressions were very impressive. Both top and bottom skin tuned up a treat, and playing against a loud, powerful rock band, the snare cut through beautifully. Maybe too well, if that's even possible. Its sheer attack was bordering on overbearing, and had band members complaining of sore ears. This snare is definitely built for extremely heavy rock to metal, played in large halls to arenas. If your beef is playing light-touch jazz in small clubs, or pop or reggae, then this is not your weapon of choice. If you play the aforementioned harder styles of rock and require a clubbing, high-intensity assault from your snare, then the Edge is the drum of your dreams. Every hit was like a clap of the devil's thunder.

As a heavy rimshot player, the drum certainly made chipboard of my Vater 2Bs as well!

Upon closer inspection, post band practice after the other members had left, a slight issue appeared. I detected a somewhat annoying ringy overtone that I had difficulty



tuning out. A little dampening did the trick, though, and it left simply warm, attacking tones that I could imagine coming up a treat in the studio or in a live setting.

## IN SUMMARY

The Edge snare is a real piece of work. It's a snare I can imagine six feet four and 120 kilos of Gene Hoglan slamming hard and often in a Fear Factory gig. I can also imagine it lasting forever if cased and maintained properly, even after year upon year on the road, such is its quality and potential for extreme durability in its construction.

Musical instruments are one group of products that truly define the well-worn term "you get what you pay for". This Edge snare isn't just weighty when you pick it up, it's pretty damn hefty in its price tag as well. But that only bespeaks the quality of the instrument. I maybe wouldn't say this is the Rolls Royce of snare drums, but it's definitely a higher model BMW. DW are doing their reputation no damage whatsoever with this very dangerous new weapon of mass percussion.

By Rod Whitfield

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