
DW COLLECTORS SERIES BRONZE SNARE DRUM

Every drummer should have a collection of snare drums made up of a variety of materials. When it comes to wood, you have many options: maple, birch, oak, mahogany, jarrah – list goes on. As for metal, the most common compound is steel or brass, but these days you can get your hands on copper, aluminium and our snare in review: bronze.

Drum Workshop (DW) offer their Collectors Series metal snare drums in steel, stainless steel, vintage steel, aluminium, copper, brass and bronze. This particular example is 14" x 6.5" and features DW's new and excellent MAG throw-off, consisting of a butter-smooth lever that glides into place with the use of a magnet, and the very handy three-level instant tension adjustment, which has to be one of the best inventions ever created for a snare drum. Move between loose, standard or tight tension at the flick of a switch – super easy in a live situation. This bronze snare is in the standard chrome finish but is also available in a very cool looking knurled finish that adds a textured criss-cross effect, and your choice of five hardware and fittings – chrome, satin chrome, black chrome, black nickel and a very fancy 24-karat gold.

YOU'VE GOT THE LOOK

As you would expect from a company like DW, everything is Mickey Mouse. The shell itself is made from 3mm solid cast bronze and has the most amazing colour. Add DW's wonderful hardware, hoops and heads, and you have a quality drum that looks great with any setup and looks expensive (which is nice when you invest in a new drum). Another sign of quality is the weight of this snare: DW claim that this is the heaviest drum they produce.

YOU'VE GOT THE SOUND

There's no doubt a metal snare drum can offer some characteristics that a wood snares can't, one of which is projection. Don't get me wrong, I have loud wood snares, but this drum showed me another type of loud. It has its sweet spots, and spending time with it enables you to fully understand how it likes to be tuned, but it nonetheless has a huge range of flexibility and versatility. If you tune high, you get an awesome and very focused crack that can cut through any guitar solo. I also experimented with slacking off the head. With the aid of a little dampening, the drum responded wonderfully and produced a super deep and dry old-school/70s sound. The loud wasn't quite as loud with this tuning, but it was so playable that I



wouldn't hesitate using it in small café or a large venue. It would cut both and would also record wonderfully. When tuned in the mid range, the snare drum simply gives a mixture of crack and depth. Bronze has a slightly warmer sound than steel or brass. You still have an amount of ring, which some love and others hate. If you love it, no dampening will be your thing. If you hate it, a little dampening will make you happy. You won't need a whole roll of gaffer tape, though, because it's not really overpowering. I found hitting directly in the centre of the head allowed for all but no ring at all. Rock, metal, funk, pop and R&B are my immediate choices for this snare drum, but jazz could be easily possible with the right head and tuning.

YOU'VE GOT A WINNER

Some players will prefer the brighter brass or steel varieties of metal snares, but I really liked the bronze, as I generally play wood snares and this wasn't too far out from what I'm used to. This snare was really well behaved, dead easy to tune and sensitive all the time. It is available with a 5.5" depth, but I would stick to the deeper 6.5" configuration just for that detuned sound. I really like this drum and would happily embrace it into the family of snares. Price is on the high side, but as mentioned previously, you'll look at this bronze beauty and see where the money went, and if anyone doesn't like it, you can always deafen them with your louder-than-a-Ferrari-at-full-noise rim shot. Now, where are my 2Bs...

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