

### **A wolf in sheep's clothing**

With the Drum-Tec Pro Series e-drums may finally make it to the world's largest stages, because it combines perfectly the traditional look of an acoustic kit with integrated triggers and therefore the features of a high-class e-kit.

As an edrummer, you often have to face a lot of prejudices: „...a kit like this doesn't feel natural“ or „...it can never reproduce the dynamic range of an acoustic kit and it also looks crappy“ These statements are heard quite often from other musicians. Of course, Drum-Tec is also aware of these prejudices and so, the specialized e-drum store from Auental/Rehren (near Hannover) in Germany released their first proprietary development, after 20 years of experience in e-drums.

### **On stage, the Drum-Tec Pro e-drums look like acoustic kits and can not be defined as e-drums.**

This is mainly due to the real drum shells made of wood, in which the triggers are integrated. Professional 6-ply birch shells are the basis, with an outer finish ply of Sapeli. This exotic African wood, with its red-brown character and the slight wood grain, provides a more than an attractive appearance. It should not be concealed, that everything is manufactured as accurate as for an acoustic kit – including exact 45° bearing edges. Referring to Drum-Tec, this is very important to get perfect response from shell, head and trigger. All shells are also perfectly round and perfectly measured. A standard like this is sometimes not even held by regular acoustic kits. Unfortunately.

### **Even the hardware is something to look at.**

The small single lugs look classy, but are also fully functional – including well-cut threads. Ideally, the toms do not have a suspension mount, but solid lugs and „only“ regular 1.6mm steel-hoops, to avoid unintentional resonances and come with rim noise eliminators made of rubber for most possible silence on the batter side. The hoops provide perfect seatings for the tension bolts and therefore ensure a secure mounting of the newly designed 2-ply mesh heads. With the correct tuning, these heads do not only provide extreme durability, but also improve the feel and offer perfect triggering and dynamic response.

### **But where are the triggers?**

Although, this kit has the traditional look of an acoustic kit, we are still talking about e-drums after all. The answer is: underneath the heads. At least the snare and the toms come with metal casings with a diameter of 10 cm and a height of 3,5 cm, which carry the the pick-ups for head and rim triggering. The whole construction looks really thought-out and is held by massive bracings, which are also used as fixings for the lugs. Integrated in the casing: the sensor for the head, which is independently mounted on special rubber cushions and this combination provides even perfect positional sensing, when using the high-class sound modules from Roland.

**The e-drum recognizes exactly where and how hard a strike is placed** and changes the sound accordingly in fine nuances – including rim shots and rim clicks. Just, as an acoustic drum would react. Even when hitting the trigger cushion directly, there is no hot-spot. A problem that other pads sometimes have. For the cables, there are sturdy Neutrik connectors.

### **The development of the bass drum trigger was a real challenge.**

A complete kick pad with special features was implemented in the wood shell. Where the beater hits the head, there is a foam pad with a diameter of 20 cm, that insures accurate dampening. The trigger can be found directly underneath the foam pad, which is mounted on a very sturdy construct made of metal. This construction fills about a 1/3 of the bass drum shell and is connected to the lugs, to keep it in place. The whole construction is mounted on special, moveable bearings to improve the rebound when playing. In summary, this is one of the best kick pads on the market. Regarding dynamics and play feel, it is really incomparable and even smoothest kicks will be sent to the sound

module exactly.

**This extra ordinary play feel, which is very close to acoustic drums, is perfect to use these drums in combination with professional sound modules.**

Consequently, Drum-Tec designed these pads for Rolands TD-12 and TD-20 modules. In addition to the shell set, Drum-Tec offers 3 different complete kits, such as the Stage kit, that we have tested. It does not only include the TD-20 module with all its modelling features, but also the professional cymbals for hihat, ride and 2 crashes. Even the price is adequate. Including the complete hardware kit (except kick pedal!) with professional quality and the professional Roland TD-20 sound module, the price is around 5.500,00 EUR and so with, the price is comparable to high-class kits from other manufacturers.