

Offering new drummers a bash at great value

Performance Percussion PP300 drum kit
 By Andrew Segal

The world of starter or beginner drum kits seems to have been growing almost exponentially over the past few years. New drummers are as spoilt for choice as players at the professional end of the scale in terms of what their money can buy.

But Performance Percussion's PP300 kit offers the boast of having everything that any aspiring Keith Moon or John Bonham needs to enter the literally whacky world of drumming in just one box. Open it up and you find a five-piece kit, bass drum pedal, snare drum, hi-hat and cymbal stands, cymbals, a stool, assembly instructions and even a pair of sticks - all for £299. The only thing missing is the egg-boxes to soundproof the walls of the practice room.

The review kit arrived in an attractive metallic blue which I had previously only seen on toy-sized children's drums, and had long thought should be provided for the big boys who liked slightly sparkly drums too. But the choice of colours for the PP300 also extends to metallic red and metallic silver finishes, as well as the classic black.

The quite light five-ply wooden shells for the toms and bass drum come with well-made steel hoops, as well as rather stylish and unobtrusive lug boxes, and are in the tried and tested "power" or "rock" sizes of 12x10-inch and 13x11-inch rack toms, a 16x16-inch floor tom and a 22x16-inch bass drum. These all go with a whopping 14x6.5-inch steel snare drum.

Luckily a gig beckoned which allowed me to actually bash the drums where they are supposed to be hit - in front of people who are listening - and they acquitted themselves without any

problems. The kit was assembled with a minimum of fuss; nothing moved, shook, rattled or fell off during the evening while it was played, and there were no problems with taking everything down again at the end of the show. There were also several compliments for its colour by some of the crowd, and on its sound and loudness by other band members.

One piece of advice often given to starter kit buyers is to immediately change the heads. But the Performance Percussion own-branded heads actually provided a very usable tone within a very short space of time of coming out of the box and with only a few minutes tuning per drum. What resulted in the toms was a lively and responsive tone which managed to mix some warmth with a certain degree of "bark" (think a hint of Phil Collins' "In The Air Tonight" tom sound being thrown into the mix).

The bass drum provided a satisfying thud when used, though the best tone required a bit of damping.

The snare drum proved a bit more of a challenge to get the high-pitched crisp tone that I favoured. For those who prefer a lower-pitched heavy rock tone, that is easily achievable and satisfactory. A very easy snare throw-off mechanism also increased the drum's usefulness, meaning a simple flick could allow a quick change between snare and timbale-style sounds and back again for those who like to do that during soloing.

There were some very pleasant surprises in terms of hardware. Double-braced legs were provided throughout on the boom cymbal stand, hi-hat stand, snare stand



PP300WR
 Metallic Wine Red

Special Features



Classic design drum lug



Rock-solid hi-hat clutch



Spike/rubber spurs with setting markers



Heavy-duty, quick-release basket snare



Adjustable throw-off snare strainer



Fully adjustable tom arms with memory locks

and stool in a bold attempt to prevent circumstances which result in things being knocked over.

The solid snare stand proved to be particularly capable of withstanding a gig-sized beating. This was joined by a very resilient hi-hat stand which also included the little gem of a new "grip-type" top cymbal clutch - very effective at stopping the top hat from sliding up the pole as a bit of heavy left foot use sometimes causes.

A great value way to enter the world of drumming with the knowledge it will stand up to some serious bashing

The single-spring bass drum pedal had a light feel to it, and though not always up to being able to deal with very fast double strokes, was good at providing a solid stroke without too much effort, bypassing a problem some starter kits have suffered from of providing

clunky pedals that were often kicked in frustration as much as they were used to provide a beat.

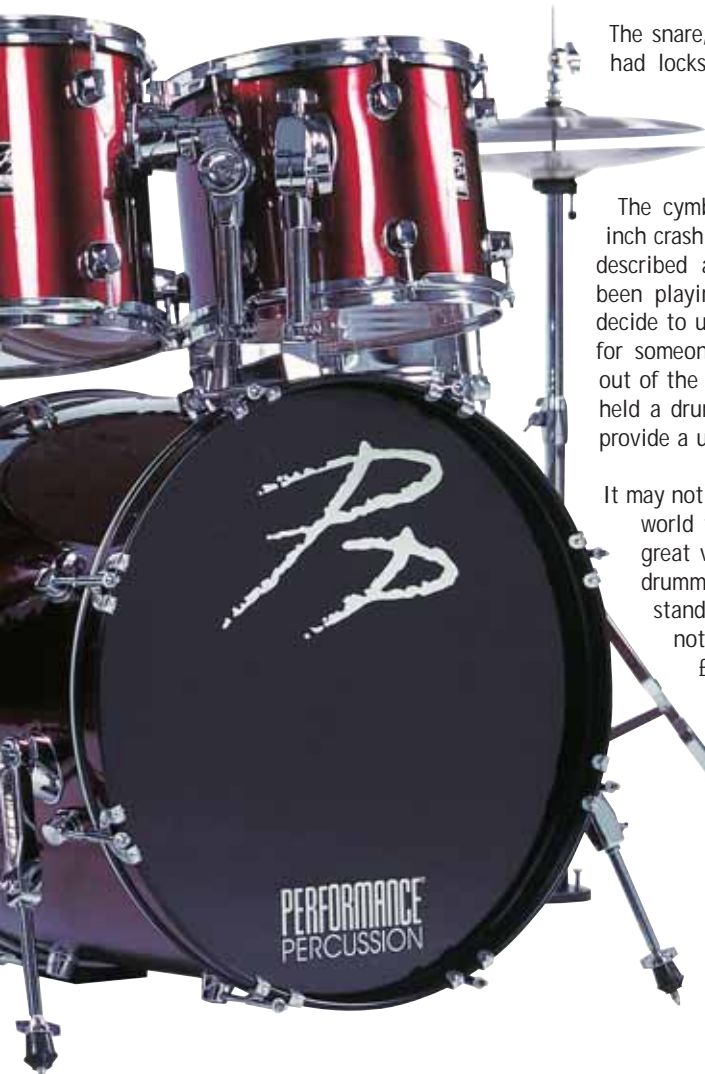
Memory locks abounded on this kit - a definite plus for any beginner who can now avoid the frustration of bits of kit not being at exactly the right height after spending hours trying to get comfortable. The tom holders made sure that once you got the drums where you wanted them to be, they could be put back in those exact positions

with extreme ease. Taking the toms off, and stands out and then reassembling them several times always resulted in the drums going back to where I had wanted them, removing another problem many budget kits have had in the past.

The snare, cymbal and hi-hat stands also had locks, again making it easy to get things to the right height, which is especially handy if a speedy set-up is ever needed.

The cymbals, 14-inch hi-hats and a 16 inch crash cymbal, would probably be best described as basic and anyone who has been playing for a while will most likely decide to upgrade them fairly quickly. But, for someone who is taking them straight out of the box for first time and has never held a drumstick in their life before, they provide a usable noise.

It may not stand up to the rigours of a few world tours, but this kit does offer a great value way to enter the world of drumming with the knowledge it will stand up to some serious bashing and not fall over in a hurry. For under £300 you get one box that literally contains everything someone needs to start a beat and which should more than comfortably outlast garage band days and the tentative first steps into the world of gigging.



PP300BL Metallic Blue



PP300WR Metallic Wine Red



PP300SL Metallic Silver



PP300BLK Metallic Black



Single chain drive split plate bass pedal with retractable spikes



Fully adjustable boom arm cymbal stand



Spec Check

Standard Specifications

- Bass drum 22" x 16", 16 lugs
- Floor tom 16"x 16", 12 lugs
- Tom 13 "x 11", 12 lugs
- Tom 12 "x 10", 12 lugs
- Metal snare 14" x 6.5", 8 lugs
- 14" Hi Hat Cymbals
- 16" Crash Cymbal
- Double braced hardware
- Memory locks
- Snare stand
- Hi-hat stand
- Cymbal boom stand
- Bass drum pedal
- Drum stool
- Drum sticks, 5A wood tip
- Instruction/Assembly Leaflet

PP300 £299.00rrp

Colour Finishes

- Black
- Metallic Red Wine
- Metallic Blue
- Metallic Silver