

# Performance Percussion PP300R Kit – update

**£319** | Now equipped with Remo heads, the popular Performance Percussion PP300R kit aims to provide a great starting point for any drummer. **Adam Jones** takes a look...

## ESSENTIALS



### PRICES

Performance Percussion five-piece PP300R Kit **£319**

### CONTACT

**John Hornby Skewes and Co Ltd**  
Salem House  
Parkinson Approach  
Garforth  
Leeds  
LS25 2HR  
**Telephone**  
0113 286 5381  
**Website**  
www.jhs.co.uk

The Performance Percussion PP300R kit is an all-in-one beginners kit that comes with everything you need to start playing. If the PP300R kit seems familiar, that's because distributor JHS have been giving a kit away in *Rhythm* each issue for the past 10 months. A version of this kit was first reviewed in January 2006. As with all manufacturers, JHS has a policy of continually upgrading gear, so it's a good opportunity to take stock of the recent improvements.

### Head first

Considering the price and comprehensive nature of the kit, it should come as no surprise that the PP300R is sourced from China. In recent years many drum manufacturers have begun successful

operations in China and the individual components seem well made and fit together smoothly.

For your cash you get five drums – a 22"x16" bass drum, 14"x6½" steel snare, 12"x10" and 13"x11" toms and a 16"x16" floor tom. The drums are supplied with a hardware package, which contains all the relevant tom mounts, a hi-hat stand, snare stand, boom arm cymbal stand and a stool. A pair of 14" hi-hats and a 16" crash cymbal are also included, as is an all-important pair of sticks.

The kit is available in four choices of wrapped finish. These are three shades of metallic – blue, silver and red – and a plain gloss black. The metallic blue of the review kit is identical to that of the original kit and is a very fine sparkle that catches the light appealingly.

The biggest improvement to the kit is the addition of Remo heads. This is an area that conventional budget kits often treat as an afterthought and, as the choice of head makes an enormous contribution to the sound of a drum, it's certainly a good

move. The Remo heads on the toms are clear, single-ply examples that bring more focus and attack to the drums. The toms could still do with being an inch or two shallower in my book – their deeper dimensions make for a fairly thunderous response. I can't imagine any fledgling drummer complaining though...

The bass drum is equipped with a pretty decent batter head, which sports a muffling ring. The ebony front head is thinner than that on the playing side, but contains a port which is handy for folding in dampening material – not that it requires much. The drum gives a thoroughly respectable performance. Tweaking the tuning brings about a tight, punchy thud that is destined to have the neighbours banging on the wall.

The snare was the most impressive drum of the original kit, and it remains so here. At 6½" inches deep, it has a head start on the more typical 5" snare found at this level. Its superior depth affords a crisp, rock solid authority that is totally at odds with its budget status. **B**

**The comprehensive** hardware package provides everything you need to get started.

**Remo heads are the** most notable new addition to the PP300R kit.

## RHYTHM VERDICT

The only major enhancement to the PP300R kit is the new Remo heads, but if there is one area in which an upgrade will make a dramatic difference then this is it. As well as performance benefits, the Remo brand adds worth to the kit. The snare and stands also give a strong showing, so the package is well balanced. A few aesthetic features could be tightened up, and while there are cheaper kits, the PP300R rates highly on the quality-value index and is as good a point as any to begin playing.

**+** Well-appointed starter kit with emphasis on all the right areas.

**-** More options – such as shorter toms – would improve things further.

**RATING** ★★★★★



**The snare is a major** boost to the all-round quality of the kit.