

CRASH PAD

Need a smart and well-built travel pad? Well, if you do the folks at K2 Music have improved upon the already excellent crash-pad practice pad made here in the good old UK by now offering this sleek, double-sided pad with permanently fitted leg strap. The double-sided pad gives you a surface that replicates a tension similar to that of a snare drum on one side, with the flip side surface similar in feel to that found on a floor or rack tom. The addition of the permanently fitted leg strap ensures that wherever you go you can always sit down and practice rudiments or rhythms at your leisure without searching for a suitable surface to rest your pad upon.

Further information at: www.k2musicltd.co.uk



Photos: Pete Hatton



The Crash-Pad makes practice on the go a breeze

Words: Ian Croft

It makes sense to think that any product developed by a working pro-drummer is going to hit the mark and so it is with the extremely compact Crash-Pad practice pad, developed and manufactured here in the good of UK.

There was a previous version of the Crash-pad that met with an unexpected demise in 1997, but the new product in front of me seems set to wash away any thoughts of the past and ensure a healthy future for the company

Construction

The Crash-Pad is a dual-surfaced practice pad that can be played on your leg, mounted to a cymbal stand, or laid and played flat on a table or similar surface. The very lightweight pad is built upon a 15 mm 12-ply birch base and features two playing surfaces one of high rebound composite rubber, being the 'fast' side and a custom foam surface that produces way less rebound and is therefore deemed the 'slow' side. You might also think of the two differing surfaces as the 'fast' side representing a rebound

similar to a snare drums response and the 'slow' side akin to replicating the feel produced when playing toms

Either side of the birch base, two screws allow you to fasten a fully adjustable knee-stap so that the pad can be played on your leg when sitting down. at the top of pad sits a reinforced centre hole that allows for mounting to a cymbal stand.

In Use

Apart from the sheer lightness of this pad and it's ability to transform itself from a snare pad to a tom pad in an instant, the Crash-Pad is small enough to stow away in your gig-bag, or even put into a large pocket. The snare side pad is nicely responsive and really quite quiet, allowing for you to jump on the number 11 bus and lock down those fills whilst all around you are juggling shopping bags. Equally, the slower side, although being marginally louder in response, does create a feel similar to that of playing on a tom, which may get you thrown off the bus, or a round of applause, depending upon the conductor/driver and assembled passengers. Either way, this is one extremely useful and inspiring aid to have to hand.

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The Crash-Pad 8" model practice pad features a dual playing surface that offers two differing rebound levels along with two different "tones". The composite rubber-sided surface produces a slightly higher rebound level and a slightly higher pitched and marginally louder note when compared to the custom foam side, which delivers a slightly lower rate of rebound and a quieter "note" too. Both surfaces feel really good to play upon, and of course, having the choice of the differing rebounds does allow you the opportunity to switch between surfaces according to your practice needs.



The rugged 12-ply birch wood middle section is well constructed and offers a drilled hole that will allow for cymbal stand mounting, but as the pad is dual-faced, it will also sit very firmly on any table surface. The Crash-pad is made in the UK and is a sturdy and well-constructed practice item that can easily be carried in your gig bag for those instant or backstage warm-up moments. Further info can be found at www.k2musicltd.co.uk

