

# PAISTE 602 CLASSIC SOUNDS MEDIUM RIDE AND 2002 MEGA BELL



## PRICES

2002 Mega Bell, £133;  
Formula 602 Classic  
Sounds Medium ride,  
£516

## ALLOYS USED

Bell, CuSn8; ride,  
CuSn20

## FINISH

Ride: natural buffed  
gleaming; Bell: satin  
polished

## COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE

Switzerland

## DIAMETERS AVAILABLE

Bell, 10", heavy weight;  
rides: 20", 22", 24",  
medium weight

## SUITABLE FOR

Ride: Versatile at low to  
medium loud settings in  
jazz, blues, pop, rock,  
country, etc; Mega Bell:  
colourful addition to  
any style

## CONTACT

Korg UK Ltd  
01908 304601  
paiste@korg.co.uk  
www.korg.co.uk

**From £133** Swiss cymbal maker continues to offer new additions to its classic 602 and 2002 series

WORDS: GEOFF NICHOLLS

**W**ay back in 1959 Paiste manufactured its first cymbals from traditional B20 bell bronze, or CuSn20 as Paiste prefers to call it. This was the Formula 602 series which has always had loyal fans. Here we have a Classic Sounds Medium 602 ride. Not to be confused with the slightly vibed-up Vinnie Colaiuta-tailored Formula 602 Modern Essentials.

Paiste has also long been a leader in providing bronze percussion perhaps more suited to avant garde jazz, classical orchestral and world music settings. Hence this 10" 2002 Mega Bell.

## Build

The Medium ride comes in 20", 22", and 24" diameters. We have the 22" for review. It is quite rigid and medium heavy, with perfectly-even lathing and all-over hammering both top and bottom. It has that smooth unfussy 602 look which is classic and timeless.

The 10"-diameter Mega Bell is in Paiste's red label 2002 B8 CuSn8 bronze alloy range. It has a hat-like dome, broad lathed on the top and smooth underneath. It's a heavy little item and totally rigid.

## Hands On

The nomination 'Classic Sounds' reminds us that the 602 timbre has 50-plus years of history and that this cymbal is intended to conjure up that vintage tone. I grew up on Paiste 602s and 2002s and this is certainly the sound I am familiar with. In fact I've long owned a 1970s 602 20" Medium ride and a 1980s 602 20" Heavy ride and I've always preferred the Medium. The Heavy is a bit too metallic and has quite fruity, strident overtones.

This new Medium version undoubtedly retains the sound of the much older 602s,

## 22" MEDIUM RIDE

Cymbal is a newly updated version of a 40-year-old classic, smooth with timeless looks



but at 22" it is a couple of inches bigger and that much deeper and mellower. As such I prefer it and really feel it is worthy of the name. It is in fact a slight improvement on the originals.

There is no doubt there is an unbroken connection between the originals and this modern version. This is a versatile cymbal, but versatile in lower to medium volume ranges, so you can play jazz and rock with it, when you're looking for a pure, warm and precise touch. It's a great chill-out cymbal, the stick definition is not too hard-nosed but hovers over a lustrous broad body without being disconnected. Likewise the bell is clear but not disembodied. A sweet and warm instrument, but in no way dull or insipid.

The 10" Mega Bell is one of those percussive noises that is all about choosing your moment: when – and how – to strike it.

Tap it firmly with the shoulder of the stick and there is the initial high-pitched, pure 'ting' and underneath that a deeper, fuller body which pulses as it dies away.

Paiste suggests rockers will like it, but it has much wider applications for percussionists of all styles – from experimental, prog, world to classical. **R**

**VERDICT:** Paiste's Medium 602 22" ride is versatile in the lower to medium volume ranges, with a pure, warm and precise sound. The 10" Mega Bell is a typically clean-sounding Paiste novel percussive accessory.

**BUILD QUALITY** ★★★★★  
**PLAYABILITY** ★★★★★  
**VALUE FOR MONEY** ★★★★★  
**RHYTHM RATING** ★★★★★