

REMO AMBASSADOR X14

From £13.50 Remo's most durable single-ply head makes light work of the heaviest of demands

WORDS: ADAM JONES

Remo's new Ambassador X head has been designed to combine the performance characteristics of a regular Ambassador with the resilience of a twin-ply head. Launched in late 2011, the Ambassador X14 follows the success of Remo's Ambassador X head.

Build

While conventional wisdom would suggest that twin-ply heads are harder wearing, like any head they influence the sound of the drum to which they are fitted. This is often for the better, as many drummers prefer the sound of Emperors on their toms. However, the snare drum is the most played drum on pretty much any kit and is therefore worthy of extra scrutiny and deliberation over head choice. Single-ply heads tend to give the most honest rendering of a drum and Remo now offers a selection of Ambassador variations made from progressively thicker sheets of Mylar. A standard Ambassador is 10-mil thick, while the Ambassador X (launched in 2010) is 12-mil. The Ambassador X14 is beefier still at 14-mil, or the same thickness as a twin-ply Emperor.

Hands On

Currently offered in 13" and 14" diameters, Ambassador X14 heads are only available in a coated finish. With the review head fitted to my steel 14"x5½" snare I was struck by the immediacy of its response. The drum sounds bright and cutting but there is a depth of tone present as well, along with a hint of darkness (due to the thickness of the Mylar). In the centre, the sound is wet, fruity and controlled enough to not require dampening. Towards the edges overtones begin to assert themselves, as you'd expect.

Dynamic playing extremes are catered for – belt the drum, and out comes a fat slap of a backbeat, while at the other end of the scale

it reveals the most delicate of stickings cleanly. Here ghost notes and buzz rolls come frothing from the stick tips. There is a feeling of connection that only a single-ply head can supply – one of almost no barrier between the drum and yourself. It's also loud – rimshots leap out with the most casual of promptings, momentarily wiping out everything else and then lingering on as the ringing slowly diminishes. **R**



THICKNESS

Single-ply X14 is 14-mil, the same thickness as a twin-ply Ambassador



Essential spec



PRICE

Remo Ambassador X14 heads: 13", £13.50; 14", £14.70

SIZES

13" & 14" only

HEAD CONSTRUCTION

Single sheet of 14-mil Mylar

IN-BUILT DAMPING

No

CONTACT

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VERDICT: Ambassador X14 heads are supremely playable, deliver an open, powerful sound and are substantially more durable than a regular Ambassador. What's not to like?

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