

GEAR REVIEW

MAPEX DESIGN LAB EQUINOX SNARE

£599.99 *The Black Panther just got an upgrade*

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DIPLOMAT

The Equinox comes supplied with a vintage style Remo Fiberskyn Diplomat batter head

HOOPS

The single-flanged hoops are copper with a chrome coating

LUGS

The 20 Black Panther lugs are staggered, which allows for an increased tuning range



Essential spec



PRICE

£599.99

SHELL MATERIAL

North American Maple

CONSTRUCTION METHOD

Ply

NUMBER OF PLIES

6-ply (6mm), plus 4-ply re-rings

BEARING EDGES

45° Soniclear bearing edges top, 35° on the bottom

FINISH

Ebony Stain

HOOPS

Single-flanged hoops with claws

SUPPLIED HEADS

Remo Diplomat Fiberskyn batter and Ambassador snare-side reso

NUMBER OF LUGS

20 Black Panther-style lugs

SNARE WIRES

Puresound Custom 16-strand stainless steel

SNARE STRAINER

Black Panther cylinder throw-off and butt side adjustment

CONTACT

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Launched alongside the Black Panther Heartbreaker and Cherry Bomb models (reviews coming in the next issue of *Rhythm*), the Equinox completes a family of 'Ultra Premium' Design Lab snare drums from Mapex.

Build

Each Design Lab snare drum uses a Concept Hybrid approach to shell design, shell composition and drum construction. This is Mapex's way of saying that it has applied a great deal of knowledge and experience into everything from shell material selection and bearing edges, to snare beds and counter-hoops. In the case of the Equinox, the Concept Hybrid profile is described as classic, bright and articulate.

The 6mm, 14"x5" shell is 6-ply North American Maple with 4-ply maple reinforcement rings and features 45° edges on the batter side and 35° edges on the snare-side

(both with rounded back cuts). The single-flanged hoops are copper with a chrome coating, using claw-hooks both top and bottom. The 20 chrome Black Panther lugs are staggered, which allows for an extended tuning range.

The Equinox's ebony stain uses the new Soniclear Attenuation System (SAS), which is a low-mass finish designed not to impede the sustain of the shell in the way a standard lacquer might. The snare comes complete with 16-strand custom Puresound wires and a Remo Diplomat Fiberskyn batter head/Ambassador snare-side reso.

Hands On

As advertised, all of the above attributes add up to a very responsive and articulate drum. The thin maple shell delivers a warm, open tone and offers an enormous dynamic range. Pre-tuned to a medium pitch, the drum springs to life with even the tiniest of ghost notes and the snare wires offer amazing response

through the shallow 5" shell. The copper hoops add further warmth to the drum and allow the Fiberskyn head to resonate freely on the bearing edge. Not only do the hoops really look the part but they also enhance the cross-stick tone beautifully.

Cranked up tight the drum gives a snappy backbeat whilst still retaining some of the drum's complex overtones. Rimshots effortlessly pull an abundance of tone from the shell and produce a noticeably different note from the head. **R**

VERDICT: The Equinox mixes tradition with modernity in terms of both looks and sound. There is no doubting this is a stunning drum, but it comes at an equally weighty price.

BUILD QUALITY



PLAYABILITY



VALUE FOR MONEY



RHYTHM RATING

