

EVANS BLACK CHROME DRUM HEADS

From £16.49 A set of cool-looking heads designed to warm-up your sound

WORDS: DAVE HOLMES

Way, way back in 1956, pro drummer Marion 'Chick' Evans created the first ever synthetic drum head. This paved the way for the millions of drummers worldwide to benefit from his great invention we now take for granted. Evans, (under the wing of music giant D'Addario), has continued the tradition of innovative designs including the fat oil-dampened Hydraulic, the warm and punchy EC2 - with its unique 'Edge Control' ring and now these brand new Black Chrome models, aimed specifically at heavy hitters.

Build

For review I have a selection of 'seriously deep' Black Chrome heads, covering shell sizes 8" to 16". Each example is constructed from two plies - the top is a 7-mil (1-mil = 1/1000th of an inch) slice of 'optically clear' material, while the lower (finished in a matte black), is slightly thicker at 7.5-mil. It is the shiny top layer which gives the heads their mirror-like chromed finish, reminiscent of a still, dark watery pool.

The head extremities are drilled around the circumference and shaped using a water-cooled moulding process. This creates an incredibly rigid collar with a 'crimped' effect - much like a metal 'crown cork' bottle top found on beer bottles. Once trimmed, the drilled edge is placed into a channel within an aluminium hoop and glued with an epoxy resin. This flows into the channel and the drilled holes, locking it tightly into the hoop.

Hands On

The rigid collar seems to create some pre-tensioning, giving the head an element of musicality before going anywhere near the shells. Once in position, they are finger-tightened and pitched fairly closely at each lug point. With only a couple of turns of the key, any hint of a crease at the edges has long gone and they are sufficiently tight to begin to play. Immediately they give out a warm and punchy sound, without making them slack or heavily damped in order to achieve this.

Even with the heads cranked up, there is still an underlying low fundamental, but the ease at which these have an apparent 'near perfect' tuning is purely down to the head and not the person turning the drum key! The toms have the perfect balance of resonance and dampening to be able to handle live situations or to record without fear of clouding the mix. As Evans suggests, they are incredibly dark sounding, but not at the expense of being dull and lifeless. **R**

THICKNESS

Each of the heads is constructed from two plies - the top is a 7-mil slice of 'optically clear' material; the lower slightly thicker at 7.5-mil



Essential spec



PRICES

8", £16.49; 10", £16.99; 12", £17.99; 14", £19.99; 16", £22.49

REVIEW SIZES

8", 10", 12", 14", 16"

SIZES AVAILABLE

6" to 20"

HEAD CONSTRUCTION

Dual-ply polyester - 7-mil top layer, 7.5-mil secondary layer

IN-BUILT DAMPENING

None

FINISHES AVAILABLE

As pictured

CONTACT

D'Addario
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BLACK CHROME

The Black Chrome heads are aimed specifically at heavy-hitters

VERDICT: While these Evans heads appear slightly more expensive than others on the market, they are incredibly durable, sound amazing, are easy to tune, look stunning - what more can I say, what more can you want?

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