

ZILDJIAN KEROPE SERIES RIDES



From £429 Zildjian adds a pair of medium weight rides to its acclaimed and hugely successful Kerope series

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MEDIUM WEIGHT

The slightly increased medium weight gives the cymbals increased volume and stick definition

VINTAGE AURA

Kerope rides have a special patina applied to the surface giving them a classic aged and played-in appearance

Despite modern music getting ever brasher and louder, a welcome balance is maintained in the way each cymbal company has sought to develop vintage, darker, softer and lighter series. This is right up Zildjian's street as the original purveyors of highly collectable 'Ks' and 'As'. The K Kerope line was first seen in the UK in April 2014 and has been a runaway success. Now Zildjian is offering two medium weight rides to the previous light ones.

Build

The 20" and 22" Kerope rides are a distinctively special burnished orange-gold. Zildjian closely examined vintage cymbals in its own vault to plunder the best aspects of those prized 1950/'60s archetypes. Although spanking new, the Keropes look 'lived-in', with a specially applied ageing patina.

Individually hand-crafted, a 14-step process results in each cymbal being oh-so-slightly different. The exact gram

weight is inked on the underside of each bell, inviting the individual drummer to search out his/her ideal instrument.

Hands On

Going on my recollection of the standard weight rides (which I reviewed for *Rhythm* 228), these 20" and 22" Medium rides have even more body and wash. Actually, rather a lot, although they're never in danger of drowning, such is the controlled manner of Zildjian's sound design. Although heavier than the earlier, lighter Keropes, these are still lush cymbals with the vibrant stick sound melting effortlessly into the overall body. The 22" in particular has a massive presence and its large flattened bell gives a clanky yet darkly musical chime.

In fact, it seems both cymbals have more of everything, as the stick clarity is fractionally sharpened by the extra weight, while the overall volume of each cymbal is slightly increased. Crash riding has an extra power, the

crash sound having a short, bright whoosh balancing a deeper, longer undertow.

I fell in love with the first Keropes and it's hard to imagine how any drummer would not warm to these. Tonally rich and complex, they still sit sweetly in just about any musical situation - jazz, r'n'b, gospel, pop and rock too. If not intending to play too loud I should still investigate the lighter weight pair, but for so many modern situations where you find yourself applying some extra force, these new medium additions will fit the bill perfectly. **R**

VERDICT: Zildjian's Kerope series is already a critical success, and these two medium rides add some meat to the complex and beguiling sound of a legendary era of cymbal making.

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

Essential spec



PRICES

20" Kerope Medium ride, £429; 22" Kerope Medium ride, £479

CAST OR PRESSED

Individually cast

ALLOY USED

Zildjian B20 bronze

WEIGHT RANGE

20" range: Standard, 1,871-2,126 grams; Medium, 2,126-2,381 grams; 22" range: Standard, 2,182-2,523 grams; Medium, 2,523-2,721 grams

FINISH

Old gold, antiqued vintage appearance with 'lived-in' patina

COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE

USA

DIAMETERS AVAILABLE

20", 22"

SUITABLE FOR

Soul, gospel, r'n'b, jazz, acoustic, pop, rock, etc.

CONTACT

Headstock Distribution
 0121 508 6666
www.zildjian.com