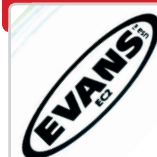


**The EC2 tom heads** have a great new look with the silver control ring around the perimeter.



# Evans EC2 & EMAD Drum Heads

## ESSENTIALS



### PRICES

EC2s £15-£18  
EMADs £37-£45  
EMAD Clear Batter £35-£43

### CONTACT

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**From £15** | Evans steams ahead with yet more intriguing and novel ideas for external drum head damping systems. **Geoff Nicholls** gets padded up...

Developed in conjunction with drummer and inventor Bob Gatzen – he of the fascinating *Drum Tuning, Sound And Design* video – the EC2 sees Evans introducing us to yet another novel chapter in their ‘sound control technology’. EC stands for Edge Control and the ‘2’ refers to the fact the heads are constructed from twin plies of 7 mil Mylar.

### Silver borders

The Edge Control ring is a band of silver material which is stuck to the underside of the head. The ring has channels – which

Evans describes as ‘stress-relief slots’ – running through its middle. These channels allow the ring to flex with the head, controlling edge vibrations and higher overtones rather than completely eliminating them. The EC2 is therefore a little livelier than, say, Remo’s Pinstripe, which also has two 7mm plies but which are bonded together around the outer inch, leading to a sound that is slightly darker and flatter.

Damping the outer edge by a small amount reduces some of the high frequencies you always get around the perimeter. The deeper tones thus come through while at the same time

the damping combined with the twin plies gives increased attack.

The other advantage of only partially damping the edge is that the EC2’s tuning range is barely compromised. In particular you can tune the EC2 right down until it’s just about to rattle and it still holds its tone.

### Bass control

Back in July 2001 *Rhythm* carried a review of the Evans EMAD (Externally Mounted Adjustable Damping) bass drum batter head. Now we get the front resonant head, which completes the system. The EMAD resonant bass head is a thin, black display head, 7mm thick with an internal 1" perimeter damping flap. It also has a 5" diameter porthole positioned two thirds of the way up the head and off towards the right – an ideal position for miking.

Once again it is the brainchild of Bob Gatzen who had the novel idea of controlling damping and tone by slotting a specially formed foam ring around the porthole.

To understand the complete system we need to backtrack briefly. The EMAD batter has a plastic perimeter sleeve mounted externally. Into this sleeve you can

**With the EMAD external system** changing rings only takes a minute and is easier than messing about with internal pillows.



KEY FEATURES



Stress-relief slots allow the EC2's silver Edge Control damping rings to flex with the vibrations of the head.

slip one of two supplied black foam rings. One ring is 2cm wide and the other is 4cm. Now we add the new front head which, like the batter, offers the choice of two foam rings, a softer and a firmer one. In total, both the batter and the resonant heads have three levels of damping, giving a wide range of combinations.

Juggling foam rings

The great thing about the EMAD system is that it is quick and easy to play with. You soon discover that damping the batter head makes the bigger impact, while damping the front head is more subtle.

Nevertheless, the firmer (darker) front ring has a slightly greater impact than the softer (lighter) ring.

I went for a medium combo, with the lighter 2cm ring inserted in the batter head sleeve and the softer foam ring encircling the mic hole. The effect was dramatic with increased attack and a lowered pitch. Edge damping, as with the EC2 tom heads, subdues the higher overtones so that the deeper tones predominate, and as sustain is reduced, so the attack is exaggerated. Overall a ballsy sound, quite hard and, with no internal pillow, loud.

Quick as a flash, I then took both front and rear rings away and got a great open, rounded sound, with more highs, perfect for non-miked situations. With the two heaviest rings in place, the attack was maximised and the tone was short, dark and brutal. But as there was no pillow in the drum there was still lots of air and body. The clever thing about the EMAD external system is that changing rings is quick, and easier than messing about with internal pillows or felt strips. The drawback is that the EMAD Resonant only works with a hole cut in the front head. **R**

RHYTHM VERDICT

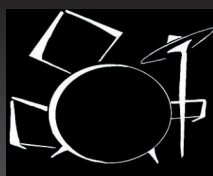
Evans' approach to damping has always struck me as elegant and inventive. The EC2's new edge damping provides just enough control to accentuate attack and depth without sacrificing too much resonance. The EC2 is a hard wearing double-ply head which is lively, easy to tune and versatile. The EMAD Resonant looks a bit strange, but it's subtly effective. Together with the EMAD batter it is both fun and childishly easy to experiment with. The system provides appropriate damping without having to gaffer a pillow inside your bass drum. It's flexible, easy to adjust and the lack of internal obstructions means you get a full, vibrant tone.



**+** Yet again Evans comes up with ingenious and practical solutions to drum head damping.

**-** The new resonant EMAD front head is no good if you prefer to use a full front head.

RATING



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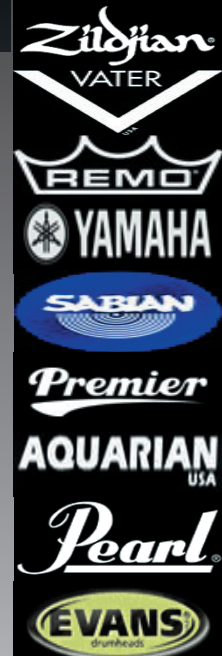
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