

NEW GEAR

EXCLUSIVE



THE TRASH SPLASH

has a radical design that delivers an energetic sound

HYBRID RIDE

is at 21" a larger version of the established 20" model

ESSENTIAL SPEC



PRICES

13" K Custom Trash splash: £235

15" K Custom Trash crash: £291

21" K Custom Hybrid ride: £464

Cast

Alloy used

Finish

Hand or machine hammered

Country of manufacture

Diameters available

Models available

Suitable for

Contact

ZILDJIAN K CUSTOM HYBRID CYMBALS



From £235 Zildjian's thoroughly modern K Custom Hybrid range gets some new additions. Adam Jones investigates

Zildjian seldom releases signature cymbals (the A Armand series being a rare exception), but it frequently collaborates with drummers to create new designs. The K Custom Hybrid range is a good example of such a project. Inspired by Japanese fusion master and long-standing Zildjian endorsee, Akira Jimbo, it was first unveiled in 2006. In 2008, the range was enlarged with five new additions and this year sees three more cymbals joining the ranks.

Build

K Custom Hybrids feature two opposing finishes on each cymbal: the bell and the inner half of the bow are unlathed and highly polished while the outer half is regularly lathed. In common with many of the existing K Custom Hybrids, the latest trio are all odd-number diameters.

The 21" ride is a larger version of the established 20" ride, and the 13" Trash splash and 15" Trash crash are all-new designs.

While the ride is a regularly shaped cymbal, the two smaller Trash models veer off into more radical design territory. Square bells (meaning no curve; just a straight line from the centre hole to the bow) are mirrored by sharply turned down outer edges. At the point where the edges turn southwards, there are several bands of small but intense hammer marks. These details have been incorporated for their propensity to induce trashiness.

Hands on

At over 3kg, the 21" ride is quite a lot of cymbal. It feels surprisingly thin to handle, though. The lathed area gives a clean, slightly woody-sounding ping over a complementary wash. Crossing over onto the polished area brings an instant change in character, with the stick sound morphing into something altogether tighter and more pronounced. A metallic edge adds focus, helping the cymbal project further without a dramatic increase in volume. By the time the bell is reached, there's virtually no wash remaining - just a clear,

strong peal. Crashing the ride is simple and it opens with a bright, shimmering note that takes some time to decay.

The two Trash models offer similar responses to one another, being separated in pitch more than anything else. The 15" Trash crash is a fraction darker than the splash, but they both deliver high-octane trashy attack. Response is instant and high frequencies dominate. I preferred the splash for the way it seemed to slice through the air, but the crash's bigger size arguably makes it better suited to louder environments.

Verdict

From the outset, the K Custom Hybrid range was conceived as an unambiguously modern set of cymbals and these new models slot in seamlessly among the existing ones. In sizing, looks and sounds they're thoroughly contemporary and probably point to a future of ever more intricate and involved cymbals. The ride displays a wide degree of versatility, while the Trash splash and Trash crash models would make useful additions as effects cymbals to any set-up. **R**

Rating **★★★★☆**

Buffed and natural

Zildjian Bronze (B20)

Machine

USA

13", 15", 21"

Trash splash, Trash crash, ride

Rock, metal, pop, industrial, jazz, anything amplified and/or vaguely leftfield

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