

SABIAN AA HOLY CHINA AND B8 PRO O-ZONE CRASHES

From £114 More holey cymbals from Sabian who started the trend. This time a Holy China and a pair of budget O-Zones

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Sabian now gives budget cymballers the option to join the craze with these B8-Pro O-Zones. The 17" Holy China joins last year's 19" and 21" Holy Chinas, developed with demon thwacker Chad Smith and described by Sabian as the loudest cymbals it has ever made.

Build

Chad's Holy China is a thin AA series platter from Sabian's Vault collection. It has an un-lathed conventional bell and china-style upturned border which is lathed and pin-hammered. The body has similar pin-hammering underneath and 17 spokes of three 1/2" holes. The medium weight B8s have larger O-Zone-style holes - the 16" has 12 holes 1 3/4" in diameter, while the 18" has 16 which are 2" in diameter.

Hands On

Sabian says the Holy China's higher profile raises the pitch, its holes give it volume and sustain, while the large bell adds cut and

durability. I'm not sure how a cymbal with holes - and therefore of lesser mass - can be as loud as a cymbal without holes. Nor can I understand how it can sustain longer. Cutting holes in drum heads or shells shortens sustain and increases the punch and I should have thought the same applied to cymbals.

However, starting with the cheaper B8 O-Zones, I must say that the sustain is impressive. The initial attack is luridly brash, dying quickly but leaving a long tail. This means that the cymbals work as harsh stabs, but also as thrash-rides. Because of the large holes there's also a pulsing effect after crashing as the cymbals sway on their stands.

Reviewing B8 O-Zones alongside the AA Holy China does point up why (more so than with drums) you have to pay big bucks to get smooth-sounding cymbals. The B8s are coarse compared with the B20. However, since they are not meant to sound overly sweet, this is not to their detriment. They've

grown on me the more I've played them.

The relatively small Holy China doesn't strike me as that loud, but, like the AAX Aero crash reviewed two months back it has an intriguing character - a mixture of fast-attack trash with smoother oriental crash. Where the Aero is a more conventional crash with a sizzling attack, the Holy China is brasher, more in your face and topky. **R**

VERDICT: Sabian successfully transfers the fun O-Zone concept to its budget B8-Pro line - strident but effective. While the Holy China is a new angle on the china sound - slickly trashy, slippery and penetrative.

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

HOLY CHINA

Cymbal has a china-style upturned border which is lathed and pin-hammered plus 17 spokes of three 1/2" holes

Essential spec



PRICES:

AA 17" Holy China, £263;
B8 PRO 16" O-Zone crash, £114;
B8 PRO 18" O-Zone crash, £130

CAST OR PRESSED

AA: individually cast;
B8: sheet pressed

ALLOY USED

AA: B20 bronze;
B8: B8 bronze

FINISH

AA: brilliant (as pictured), or natural; B8: brilliant.

HAND OR MACHINE HAMMERED

Machine hammered

COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE

Canada

DIAMETERS AVAILABLE

Holy China: 17", 19", 21";
B8 O-Zones, 16", 18"

MODELS AVAILABLE

Holy China and O-Zone crashes

SUITABLE FOR

Effects add-ons in all styles

CONTACT:

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