

GEAR REVIEW

SONOR PERFECT BALANCE STANDARD PEDAL



£171 A more cost-conscious variant of Sonor's modern classic pedal arrives

WORDS: ADAM JONES

With the unveiling of the original Perfect Balance in 2012, Sonor and JoJo Mayer dropped something of a pedal bombshell. A labour of love for the Swiss stickmeister, the Perfect Balance took its inspiration from the past while looking forward and proved a radical departure from prevailing pedal trends. The drumming public liked what they saw and felt; since its launch it has become Sonor's best-selling pedal.

Build

Sonor and JoJo have collaborated again on the Perfect Balance Standard pedal, reworking the original design to include all of the most important components and – in the noble cause of affordability – leaving some of the flashier features out. Like the original PB pedal, the Perfect Balance Standard is a striking piece of kit. Built around a single post it sports the same elongated footboard, this time buffed to a pleasing haze rather than a mirror shine.

Unlike the original, the post is fixed (it doesn't fold down for transport) but wears a similar set of curves so has the same air of elegant simplicity. A conventional hoop clamp has been added with an offset wingnut to tighten and release (this was necessary as the folding mechanism on the original pedal also controlled the clamp). In virtually all other aspects the new pedal is identical to the old one, most importantly in the drive system and subsequent action.

Hands On

From the outset JoJo wanted to create a pedal with a balanced feel – hence the name. Too many contemporary pedals, he felt, emphasise the planting of the beater at the expense of the return. A Perfect Balance pedal does feel

different to modern equivalents and a period of acclimatisation is required to reveal its strengths. Because the action is so smooth – the cam is rounded and even rather than offset and eccentric – the pedal initially feels oddly lacking in resistance. But that is the whole point; rather than fighting against the action JoJo's ideal is a pedal that effectively disappears from beneath the foot. After settling in the pedal feels incredibly fluid, relaying as much speed, finesse, power and accuracy as your foot technique is capable of expressing. **R**

KEEP IT SIMPLE

In keeping with JoJo's original vision adjustments are limited to spring tension, footboard height and beater angle

HINGE BENEFITS

The new heelplate ball bearing hinge developed for the Standard pedal is also being fitted to the original PB models

SINGLES ONLY

JoJo's phenomenal right foot technique probably explains why there are no plans for a double version of any Perfect Balance pedal



Essential spec

SONOR

PRICES

£171

DRIVE

Strap

BEATER

Regular symmetrical felt beater

BASEPLATE

Yes

FEATURES

Single pillar;
Low mass drive system with round cam and ballistic fibre strap;
Elongated footboard;
Independent hoop clamp with offset locking wingnut;
All new ball bearing hinge in heelplate;
Nylon bag

CONTACT

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VERDICT: The Perfect Balance Standard pedal keeps what made the original PB so revelatory while undercutting it by a decent amount. Like the existing pedal, the Standard model won't suit everyone's style; it's definitely a pedal that rewards players with a more nuanced technique.

BUILD QUALITY



PLAYABILITY



VALUE FOR MONEY



RHYTHM RATING

