

NEW GEAR

THE EDGE CONTROL RING

runs a centimetre in from the glue ring, allowing the head to vibrate all the way to the hoop



EVANS EC RESONANT HEADS

From £14.95 New EC Resonants from Evans bring its Edge Control technology to the heads on the other side. Adam Jones tunes in

Back in 1956, Evans was the first company to create synthetic drumheads. Over five decades later the company continues to be a highly distinctive brand with a reputation for innovation. Since their introduction in 2005, the company's EC1 and EC2 batter heads have won many plaudits, to the extent that Evans has now decided to fit Edge Control rings to a new range of resonant heads.

Build

The theory behind the Edge Control ring is that it dampens the head without choking it. This is, of course, something that all the other makers of heads think that they have cracked too. Evans points out that where other manufacturers' heads feature damping rings that are fixed all the way into the hoop, the Edge Control ring is placed a centimetre in from the glue ring, thus allowing the head to continue vibrating all the way to the hoop. Evans claims that the design means that that edge vibration is controlled rather than eliminated, leading to a more centered pitch and a 'desirable mid-range frequency bump'.

EC Resonants are only available as clear heads and are constructed from a single 10 mil layer of film. Glued to the bottom of the head (that is the side that faces in towards the drum) is the Edge Control ring. It is 12.5mm wide but is ventilated into two 4.5mm-wide strips for the majority of its circumference, meeting at four points for its full width. The ring has a brushed silvery finish that makes it resemble a strip of metal. Evans won't say what it's actually made of - only that it is definitely *not* metal.

Hands On

I tested the EC Resonants on a variety of drums. They influenced the sound across the board in varying degrees and in certain situations really excelled. I found them most effective on naturally warm drums fitted with slightly drier-sounding batter heads. In these circumstances, the EC Resonants made quite a difference, noticeably fattening up the drums without stifling their resonance or tone. On brighter-sounding, thinner-headed drums the EC Resonants didn't have such a decisive effect, as brightness and fatness, while not being mutually exclusive, are not easy to

attain in equal measures. EC Resonants have been designed to add focus to the sound and, when paired with appropriate batter heads, the results are certainly impressive. In a controlled environment such as a studio they could be particularly useful.

Verdict

The Edge Control ring from Evans is a clever piece of design that pretty much fulfils the manufacturer's claims. Employing it on resonant as well as batter heads was, I suppose, inevitable, but at the same time it seems a fairly bold decision.

With the head already being 10 mil thick, the added effect that the Edge Control ring brings makes for quite a dense-sounding head. In the right setting, there is no question that the Edge Control Resonant heads work extremely well, bringing extended depth and warmth to drums. While they are ideal for creating a big, fat tom sound, they do need to be combined with sympathetic batter heads. **R**

Rating

ESSENTIAL SPEC



PRICES

6"	£14.95
8"	£15.50
10"	£15.95
12"	£16.95
13"	£17.95
14"	£18.50
15"	£19.50
16"	£20.95
18"	£25.95

HEAD CONSTRUCTION

Single-ply 10 mil-thick film

IN-BUILT DAMPING?

Edge Control ring

CONTACT

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