

PAISTE PST5 CYMBALS SERIES



From £39 to £125 Paiste's popular budget B8 PST5 Series gets a welcome revamp with lighter weights and improved sounds

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Paiste's Sound Technology (PST) lines have been around since 2005, starting with the brass PST3 and bronze PST5 series, which replaced the 502, 402 and 302 lines. The PST5s have recently been updated and are Paiste's entry-level bronze cymbals. Not just any old bronze though, but Paiste's famous CuSn8, 2002 B8 bronze. I had a bash on the PST7s in August, so let's see how the PST5s compare.

Build

For many these will be your first proper bronze cymbals and they certainly look the business with their bright and bold, orange-gold appearance. There are broad ridged lathing lines on top and smoothed lathing underneath. Made in Paiste's German factory, the company says they have been slimmed down, but they still have the stiffness inevitable with budget, minimally-worked cymbals. They are available singly or in bargain boxed sets.

Hands On

Generally speaking you want clarity in your crashes and more harmonic complexity in your rides. This latter quality often leads to eye watering overtone clashes, particularly in budget rides where a lack of extensive hammering and working means they are left with some fruity harmonics. Thus, as is often the case with Paiste (to my ears anyway), the crashes are superlative, while the rides can't quite live with them. Here the crashes sound refined if a little short on sustain. But the rides suffer from the curse of budget cymbals that have not been worked enough to smooth out the unwanted overtones.

So, there's a tinginess with the 20" Rock Ride - a thin contact and hard, high pitched ping. This is relative though - we are talking about a budget cymbal and it is aggressive, which will suit more energetic, rockier styles. And the bell is impressive, loud and clean. The Medium 20" ride is more pleasant with a deeper ride tone, a little more adaptable and subtle. Both rides have good stick articulation and distinct bells.



Also try...



1 MEINL MB8

We say: "Meinl has clearly set out to create a set of contemporary sounding cymbals to sit happily within touching distance of its pro ranges."



2 SABIAN B8 PRO

We say: "B8 Pros are aimed at drummers ready to move up to their first serious set of cymbals, and their brilliant finish and intensive hammering certainly makes them look like 'proper' cymbals."

Unfortunately, I found the 18" Ride-Crash slightly less successful - not the most agreeable of rides and as a crash short-lived and stubby. In fact, I preferred riding on the 18" Rock crash. It was also better than the Medium 18" crash at crashing, as the extra weight for once boosted the tone and certainly the sustain. Likewise the 16" pair. So the Rock crashes are probably the better bets unless you want a particularly dry and abrupt sound. With respect to tone though, the Mediums are the equal of the Rock crashes - slightly softer, where the Rock crashes will fill out your accents more. A

PST5

Cymbals are Paiste's entry-level metals, made from CuSn8, 2002 B8 bronze

lone 14" Medium crash is right on the edge of crash and splash, still a little clanky, but enough of a crash to make it attractive.

Paying a lot for a China does not always mean a better sound. In the case of this 18" China it has a variety of tones when played in different spots and at different angles. There is an angry harsh hum underneath, but the upturned edge crash is authentically oriental.

The 14" Sound Edge hats are quite brilliant with real bite and presence. The shouldered 'shoop' sound is killer - clean with an incisive funky Bernard Purdie 'pishit'. The pedalled 'chip' is also tasty, snappy as a Mod's shirt. In fact the Sound Edges bat way above their meagre price tag.

Then again, the 14" Medium hats are also impressive. Just a bit softer in tone and lacking the incisive chip of the Sound Edge version. You may even prefer them, as they seem deeper and smoother. Half-open they are still strong, and playing a classic closed-to-open jazz ride is a properly grown-up experience with an effortlessly classy tone.

For splashes, Paiste offers an 8" and 10" with a touch of the cheap boarding house dinner gong about them, but which are still fun at the price. They have charm and volume again.

With cymbals, more so than with drums, you get what you pay for soundwise, and these PST5s are not as refined as the PST7s,

which are just under 25 percent dearer. Still, as an entry into the world of quality bronze cymbals, the PST5s offer top value - and the hi-hats, in particular, are really professional level. **R**

VERDICT: Newly updated, now lighter and more sparkling, for those moving up from starter cymbals to their first proper bronze cymbals Paiste's PST5s offer a truly great deal and inspiring sound.

BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★

PLAYABILITY ★★★★★

VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★

RHYTHM RATING ★★★★★

Essential spec



PRICE

8" Splash, £39; 10" splash, £45; 14" Sound Edge hats, £125; 14" Medium hats, £125; 14" Medium crash, £65; 16" Medium crash, £85; 18" Medium crash, £105; 16" Rock Crash, £85; 18" Rock Crash, £105; 18" China, £105; 18" Ride-Crash, £105; 20" Medium ride, £125; 20" Rock Ride, £125

CAST OR PRESSED

Pressed

ALLOY USED

CuSn8 bronze, aka 2002 bronze

FINISH

Regular finish, polished and lathed

HAND OR MACHINE HAMMERED

Machine and hand hammered

COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE

Germany

DIAMETERS AVAILABLE

8" to 20"

MODELS AVAILABLE

Crashes, rides, hi-hats, splashes, china and boxed sets

SUITABLE FOR

Live, particularly brighter, energetic rockier styles, but also quite versatile

CONTACT

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LATHING

Cymbals have broad-ridged lathing lines on top and smoothed lathing underneath

SOUND EDGE HATS

14" Sound Edge hi-hats are quite brilliant with real bite and presence

THE PEDALLED 'CHIP' IS ALSO TASTY, SNAPPY AS A MOD'S SHIRT. IN FACT THE SOUND EDGES BAT WAY ABOVE THEIR MEAGRE PRICE TAG