

The clear EC-1 heads deliver an extremely well-defined note.

Both the coated and clear options would make excellent choices for recording.

# Evans EC-1 Drum Heads

**From £17** | Drummers need to check their heads more regularly than most. If yours are lacking, some new EC-1s might be the answer, suggests **Jordan McLachlan**...

## ESSENTIALS



### PRICES

Evans EC-1 drum heads  
(As reviewed)

12"  
13"  
16"

£17  
£18  
£20

### CONTACT

**Summerfield**  
1-2 Vance Court  
Trans Britannia  
Enterprise Park  
Blaydon On Tyne  
NE21 5NH  
**Telephone**  
0191 414 9000  
**Website**  
www.evansdrumheads.com

Since D'Addario took ownership of Evans 12 or so years ago, the drum head brand has done some serious growing. More than 9,000 Evans heads a day roll off the production line today – in 1995 it was just 700.

It's an impressive tally, and it hasn't come from out of nowhere. Evans has pioneered some innovative drumhead features over the years (two-ply heads, internal rings, oil-filled hydraulic heads and more) and with the financial clout of one of the world's largest musical accessories companies behind it, it's no surprise to see the company sky-rocketing. By continuing to put out quality products such as the EC-1 heads, they show no signs of slowing down any time soon.

### Ring thing

The single-ply heads are available in both clear and coated flavours, both of which are fitted with the Edge Control ring that gives the heads their 'EC' acronym.

This is not quite a simple circular shape slapped on the underside of the head, however. Instead the ring features four narrow cut-outs, which are designed to prevent the choking of the head and the

attendant stifling of tone. No one likes a stifled tone after all.

### Power and control

Rings such as these are built into drum heads in order to focus the sound of the shell to which they're fitted, cutting down unwanted overtones and controlling unruly high-end. Both the clear and coated EC-1s deliver an extremely well-defined note that, once the heads are tuned, needs nothing in the way of further harmonic tailoring.

Both are warm and fat, with the coated heads edging ahead in the plumpness-of-tone stakes, with the clear heads sounding a tad more open and airy. The basic film isn't heavy enough to impede attack though, so there's still plenty of energy and bite. Sustain is modest, making these a good choice for recording, where a decent degree of separation helps the engineer out from the start.

And they just feel great to play too with a malleable, buttery feel under the stick that proves highly addictive. Be prepared to feel driven towards performing lengthy tribal-style solos the first time you fit these... **R**

## RHYTHM VERDICT

Consistency has always been at the heart of Evans' output, both in terms of fabrication and design, and the EC-1s are flying the flag in fine style. A good set of heads is the best single investment you can make to improve the sound of your kit, so if you don't need lots of crackling high-end these babies will definitely be of interest. For hefty, thick rock tones they certainly take some beating...



**+** These heads are easy to tune and have a fab tone.

**-** Although fab, the tone may be too warm for some.

**RATING** ★★★★★