

# DW MFG MDD PEDALS



**From £479** DW's first ever direct drive pedal has landed...

WORDS: ADAM JONES

**T**his pair of cutting edge pedals are the first products from DW's new MFG range. The hardware equivalent of California Custom Shop drums, DW MFG (an abbreviation of DW Manufacturing) is intended to showcase unashamedly high-end, US-made pedals and hardware; if these first fruits are anything to go by then we have much to look forward to.

## Build

Launched at NAMM 2014, the MDD (Machined Direct Drive) pedal is currently available in the single and double guise reviewed here; a left-sided double has not yet been slated for release. Something of a departure from DW's familiar pedal designs - which though not short on innovations or features can nonetheless be traced visually back to the firm's original 5000 series pedal - the MDD looks more like the product of a Formula One team. Its arrival is the realisation of a three-year project which has 'consumed the life' of DW Production and R&D head Rich Sikra. And not for nothing, as the MDD is effectively a ground-up redesign, sharing only around 10 percent of components with existing DW pedals - everything else is new.

Aluminium dominates the construction, with some parts - such as the direct drive cam - being machined from solid blocks; in fact it's almost easier to spot the components that are made from other materials. The pedal's layout is relatively conventional but has clearly been designed with no little panache. The two upright posts have clean lines and

## Also try...



### 1 HIGHWOOD MALLEUS PEDAL

**We say:** "It was HighWood's criteria to create a no-compromise, yet cost-effective bass drum pedal representing Brit engineering at its very best - mission accomplished."



### 2 TRICK PRO 1-V PEDAL

**We say:** "The refreshingly easy manner in which you can set up and alter the feel of the Pro 1-Vs makes them of real interest to anyone with a pocket to cope with the prices."

feature cigar-shaped apertures along with polished outer faces. Stowed inside the right-hand post is the spring tensioning mechanism which is operated by turning a bolt with a drum key. Making adjustments is not only comfortable (compared to fighting with the equivalent knurled nut held tight by the spring's tension), but can be done with an almost unprecedented degree of accuracy.

Taking centre stage is the perforated solid aluminium footboard which has been anodised in a shade of gun metal and



## CONSTRUCTION

Pedal is almost entirely aluminium, with some parts machined from solid blocks



# THE DIRECT DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF LINKAGES AND PIVOTS MAKES A COMPLEX PIECE OF ENGINEERING SEEM LOGICAL AND STRAIGHTFORWARD - EXACTLY AS DW INTENDED

then highly polished. This tails into DW's patented Delta Hinge before continuing on, ending with an elegant fold in the contoured heel plate.

The direct drive assembly of linkages and pivots that connects the footboard to the cam is similarly striking and makes a complex piece of engineering seem logical and straightforward - exactly as DW intended. A wide spread of adjustment is again possible and, despite my best efforts, there is absolutely no lateral play to be found at all. Further fine-tuning can be achieved by adding up to four brass weights to the back of the beater head, which is itself an all-new design with three different faces to choose from.

## Hands On

DW studied the geometry of direct drive pedals and wanted the feel of the MDD to appeal to chain drive players; it would seem

to have achieved this aim. The pedal can be set up with a surprisingly natural and smooth action that seems to glide the beater into the head. At the turn of a few bolts it can be reconfigured at the other end of the scale to reveal an aggressive speed-driven machine more suited to barrages of blast beats. In all the other points between these two extremes it is the dictionary definition of precise.

Once set at my preferred stance it soon begins to feel like an extension of my foot rather than a mechanical interface - if anything is preventing me from carrying off adventurous-to-the-point-of-mindless kick flurries, it's my technique. The MDD is also

the quietest pedal I have ever played; it is completely - and I really mean totally, utterly, pin-drop territory - silent.

If the single MDD leaves me with the hint of a smile on my face, swapping it for the double finds me breaking into a near manic wide-eyed grin. The sense of equilibrium in the response is uncanny; it is genuinely impossible to tell both sides apart. Suspecting that I'm being a little too credulous, I try playing the slave pedal with my right foot but I'm not mistaken - it really is that close. Clearly no stone has been left unturned in the development of this pedal and, while it is expensive, the results are exceptional. **R**

## Essential spec



### PRICES

DW MFG MDD pedals: single, £479; double, £979

### DRIVE

Direct drive

### BEATER

3 x interchangeable beaters: flat felt, rounded felt and flat plastic faces

### BASE PLATE

Yes

### FEATURES

Fulcrum geometry linkage; solid aluminum direct-drive cam; Infinite Throw adjustment; quick pivot adjustment; perforated solid aluminum footboard; contoured Heel Plate; Interlocking Delta™ Hinge; Floating Rotor Drive System; Tri-Pivot™ Swivel Toe Clamp; 110 Control Weight/Impact Adjustable Beater; soft case included

### CONTACT

Westside Distribution  
0141 2484812  
www.dwdrums.com

## ADJUSTMENT

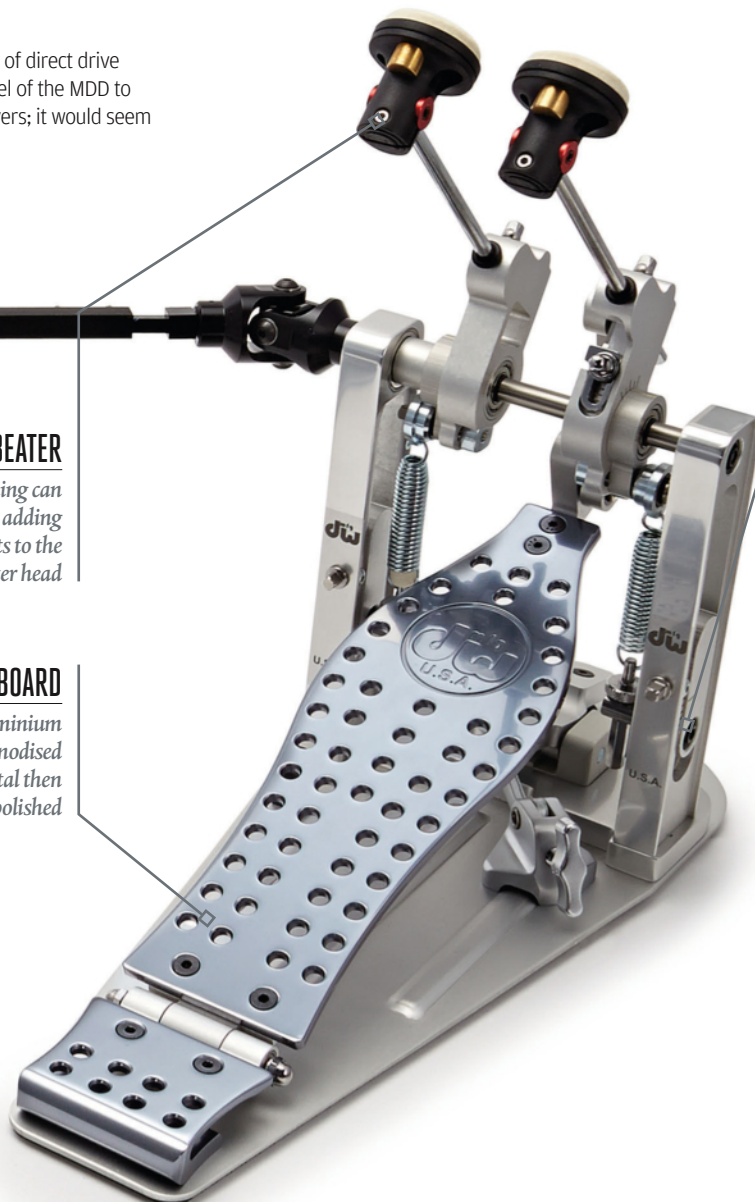
Spring tensioning mechanism is operated by turning a bolt with a drum key

### BEATER

Further fine-tuning can be achieved by adding up to four weights to the back of the beater head

### FOOTBOARD

Perforated solid aluminium footboard has been anodised in a shade of gun metal then highly polished



**VERDICT:** DW set out to make a pedal that is 'adjustable, versatile and highly playable, without being over-engineered.' Consider the brief well and truly met - the only price to pay for this technical perfection is the price itself, which is best learned when sitting down.

### BUILD QUALITY



### PLAYABILITY



### VALUE FOR MONEY



### RHYTHM RATING

