

PEARL TRU TRAC PACK

£1,035 Pearl's TruTrac system will transform any acoustic set into a fully functional electronic one – are you ready to be converted?

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Pearl's ground breaking e-PRO Live kit was first reviewed in the May 2011 issue of *Rhythm* and has since enjoyed some incredible exposure, notably with Tommy Lee's heavily customised e-PRO Live Coaster kit. However, the original was a slightly more conservative five-piece hybrid set, featuring an amalgamation of unique TruTrac heads and shells from Pearl's Export series.

Until recently, the only method of owning any of these 'real size' TruTrac heads (unless your name is Tommy Lee), was to buy a complete e-PRO Live kit. Fortunately they are now readily available in convenient packs for a complete acoustic-to-electronic transformation. Before you start getting all jittery about ripping apart your beloved acoustic kit, (other than having to make a hole in the bass drum head), there is no permanent modification and, just like the e-PRO Live kit, a simple swapping of heads will convert it back into a standard acoustic model.

Build

There are two packs available: the EPAD-25 with its 13" tom head and the EPAD-25S (as with the review set), which has a head for a 12" tom. The five-drum package includes four dual-zone TruTrac heads and a TruFeel kick pad, bass drum foam insert and all the necessary cables, adaptors, tension rods etc.

Each of the heads has a white rubberised playing surface which (with the exception of the kick pad), is firm to the touch - whereas the outer edge (acting as the 'hoop'), is spongy in comparison. The underside of each pad's black casing has a specially designed channel which slots over the bearing edge. Apart from the familiar white rubber coating,

Also try...



1 JOBEKY PRESTIGE

We say: "An electronic kit that mirrors the sizes and feel of a standard set."



2 PEARL E-PRO LIVE

We say: "Real-looking and nice feeling kit."

the single-zoned bass drum pad has pedal impact-absorbing material sandwiched in between the rubber and actual pad case which should provide a similar feel to an acoustic model.

Connection to the outside world is via

of the heads, Pearl has provided two sets of two lengths of tension rods. The method of attaching the kick pad is by creating a hole in the bass drum head - fortunately, Pearl has provided positioning templates and clear instructions and once positioned,

JUST LIKE THE E-PRO LIVE SET-UP, A SIMPLE SWAPPING OF HEADS WILL CONVERT IT BACK INTO A STANDARD ACOUSTIC KIT

unobtrusive 'no drill' adaptors which are mounted directly onto the shell at the breather hole. These adaptors are made from plastic with a chrome effect finish, and are held in place to the inside of the shell by a knurled nut. To accommodate the extra depth

the head is attached via hex bolts to the 'acoustic' head itself.

Hands On

To thoroughly check-out the conversion, I am using Roland's new TD-11 module and



FITTING

The underside of each pad's black casing has a specially designed channel which slots over the bearing edge

PLAYING SURFACE

Each of the heads has a white rubberised playing surface which is firm to the touch



BASS DRUM HEAD

Pedal impact-absorbing material between the rubber and pad case should provide a similar feel to an acoustic model

my own gigging acoustic set up which fortunately has the same sizes as the head pack. Incidentally, Pearl are keen to point out that the pads are 100 percent compatible with most drum modules including Roland, Yamaha, Alesis and, of course, Pearl's own R.E.D. module.

Armed with the humble drum key and the supplied tools, the conversion commences - it's my 10" tom which is the first up to be 'converted'. Once the head is removed and the original tension rods are put safely away (for reverting back to an acoustic set), the no-drill adaptor is attached to the drum. This proves an easy task as it fits snugly into the breather hole, attached and then the cable passed through without any fuss.

Each of the internal cables is connected up - with the 90° ¼" stereo jack plugging directly into the underside of the TruTrac head and, at the other end, onto the mini TRS stereo jack of the adaptor. Next it's the bass drum which (for the first time of conversion), is a slightly fiddly but simple process to complete. Other drums quickly follow until the whole kit becomes an electro-acoustic setup, taking literally just over an hour to complete - fine job!

When sat behind the kit for the first time, it seems weird having my acoustic set fully 'wired'. Although I soon get used to the appearance, it takes slightly longer to adjust to the feel of the pads. The stick response is reasonable and acoustic-ish but after playing for around half an hour, I began to warm to

the feel (especially with the kick pad), with each pad triggering impressively and coaxing each and every nuance from the Roland module. **R**

VERDICT: Though the method of conversion and overall design is impressive, I personally feel the full retail is a little too pricey. However, if you already own some form of electronic kit and you want to make it look like an acoustic one, then Pearl offers a reasonable solution.

BUILD QUALITY ★★★★★
PLAYABILITY ★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY ★★★★★
RHYTHM RATING ★★★★★

Essential spec

Pearl

PRICE

Pearl TruTrac Acoustic to Electronic Conversion Pack, £1,035

PADS

Rubberised TruTrac and TruFeel

ZONES

All dual (except for kick pad)

SUPPLIED TOOLS

Hole punch, hex wrench, various templates for kick pad

TENSION RODS

30mm x 52mm, 30mm x 63mm

ADDITIONAL KIT COMPONENTS

Velcro strips, foam bass drum cushion, cabling

CONTACT

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