

PAISTE PST8 CYMBALS



FROM £56.95 *There's nothing cheap about Paiste's PST8 cymbals – other than the price, that is...*

WORDS: ADAM JONES

PST8 is a new intermediate range of Paiste cymbals that slots in between the company's existing budget PST5 and mid-range Alpha series. Featuring splashes, crashes, chinas, hi-hats and rides, PST8s contain a fair few attributes from higher-spec Paiste ranges.

Build

Chief amongst these is the CuSn8 bronze that the cymbals are made from. CuSn8 is Paiste's own blend of B8 and is also known as 2002 bronze after the legendary Paiste range that it was formulated for. Unlike 'proper' 2002s, PST8 cymbals are punched from rolled sheets of the bronze (as opposed to being individually cast) but the alloy used is identical. While a good deal of the formative work is automated, the final round of hammering is done by hand and each cymbal bears a healthy complexion of large hammer dimples. Paiste claims that the lathing is also completely hand-worked; true to Swiss precision the resulting fine grooves are metronomically regular with few, if any, deviations from the centre hole to the edge. For the time being, PST8s are only available in Paiste's unique Reflector finish. First developed in the 1980s and now found on Signature models, there is more to it than simply buffing the cymbals to a shine. In fact it's a treatment - again applied by hand - that coats the cymbals permanently.

Most of the diameters of cymbal are available in two weights - Medium and Rock. As well as being heavier, the Rock models also have larger bells, a slightly flatter profile and have been on the end of a few more hammer blows. As with all Paiste cymbals, the PST8s are immaculately presented and under stage lights they light up like a set of stand-mounted mirrors.

Hands On

Kicking things off is a pair of 10" splashes in Thin (the only Thin in the entire series) and Rock variants. Both splashes open quickly with a flash of energy. After the initial attack has fallen away, a lower overtone rings on in both models - discernible in isolation but less so mid-song. The Rock-weight splash has an

Also try...



1 SABIAN B8 PRO
We say: "Their brilliant finish and intensive hammering certainly makes them look like 'proper' cymbals."



2 MEINL MB8
We say: "Contemporary-sounding cymbals that sit happily within touching distance of Meinl's pro range."

altogether longer decay on account of its thickness. From the splashes it's a short hop in diameter to a pair of 16" Medium and Rock crashes. Both models open with a clean, silky blast of B8 that slides across the mix. The Medium is fractionally deeper in tone while the Rock is sparkingly bright and carries further. Next up is a single 17" Rock crash followed by Rock and Medium 18" crashes. With each increase in crash diameter the characteristic smoothness that typifies Paiste cymbals becomes more apparent. The 18" Medium is particularly rounded and musical, while the 17" and 18" Rock crashes offer more bite with their pronounced high frequencies.

Three pairs of 14" hi-hats are available - Medium, Rock and Sound Edge. Warmest of the trio are the Mediums, which give an excellent balance of note and assertiveness. While sharing some tonal similarities to the Medium pair, the Sound Edge hats are both crisper and pack more in the way of mid-range muscle, making for a powerful but controllable set of hats. With the rock hats the

pitch is higher and the note more focused still, giving them the strongest projection of the three. Ride cymbals come in 20" (Medium & Rock) and 22" (Rock only) sizes. The 20" Medium gives a bright stick sound that generates a sympathetic accompaniment of wash. Moving onto the bell brings a full and pleasantly dry(ish) response. In comparison the heavier 20" Rock has a topplier, more lively feel; the stick sound is glassy and the bell more metallic, while the wash fizzles away below. Taking these qualities to steroid-boosted levels





ALLOY

PST8s are punched from rolled sheets of bronze but the alloy is the same as that used in 2002s

ROCK CYMBALS

Rock models have larger bells, flatter profile and have had more hammer blows

20" MEDIUM RIDE

Cymbal gives a bright stick sound with a sympathetic accompaniment of wash

Essential spec



PRICES

Paiste PST8 cymbals: 10", £56.95; 14" hi-hats, £168.95; 16", £115.95; 17", £128.95; 18", £142.95; 20", £168.95; 22", £215.95; Rock Effect Pack (10" Rock Splash and 18" Rock China), £189.95; Universal Set (14" Med Hat, 16" Med Crash & 20" Med Ride), £429.95; Rock Set (14" Rock Hat, 16" Rock Crash & 20" Rock Ride), £429.95

CAST OR PRESSED

Pressed

ALLOY USED

CuSn8 (B8) Bronze

FINISH

Reflector (brilliant)

HAND OR MACHINE HAMMERED

Both

COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE

Switzerland

DIAMETERS AVAILABLE

10" to 22"

MODELS AVAILABLE

Splashes, crashes, chinas, hi-hats & rides

SUITABLE FOR

Rock, metal, indie, pop

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is the 22" Rock ride, whose deeper voice and bigger presence gives it the authority of a well-groomed nightclub doorman. The pair of chinas (16" and 18" Rock) snarl and buzz sharply in true china fashion. They're not large enough to offer much sophistication, but they provide ample opportunity to pepper proceedings with whiplash accents. **R**

VERDICT: Other than the prices, there are few obvious signs of the PST8's budget status. It's Swiss business as usual - another superbly made and quality-sounding set of Paiste cymbals.

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