

# ZILDJIAN NEW K RIDES



**From £369** Two more top class, finely honed rides from the Zildjian K camp cater for widely different styles and tastes

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**C**ymbal variations just keep on coming, and it is to the manufacturers' credit that each addition has something unique to offer. Zildjian has had a particularly fruitful past couple of years with the introduction of the vintage style K Kerope, and here come two more special Ks, which are both great looking and sounding.

For the 20" K Constantinople Renaissance ride, partnering the already available 22" version, Zildjian again enlisted the input of jazz great Adam Nussbaum. The K Custom 21" Organic ride, meanwhile, was designed in conjunction with versatile drummer and educator Pat Petrillo.

## Build

Shiny silvery-gold with an understated opulence, the 20" Constantinople is a stunner. Each cymbal is unique, and has been handmade with minute variations.

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In fact, this one has '1764 grams' (weight) inked on the underside of the bell, even though Zildjian's blurb gives the weight range as 1,786 to 1,871 grams. Fine lathing overlays top and bottom, and the upper surface has irregular dimple hammering, while the small, low profile bell is over-hammered with moderate indentations. As well as the evocative K Zildjian Constantinople logo, each cymbal is engraved beneath with the familiar Armand Zildjian signature.

The Custom Organic ride is equally eye-catching in a different manner. It has a unique wire-brushed top, which leaves a mottled brown and orange-gold surface with an aged powdery patina. Underneath though it's a modern-day smoothie with a highly polished brilliance. The rounded bell is well-proportioned, and the rest of the cymbal is mercilessly hammered.

## Hands On

The Organic Ride is exceptionally dry. Zildjian says that the unique wire-brushed surface imparts a raw sound, while the brilliant underside opens things up for crashing without washing out. My immediate impression was of a precise ride with a medium arid character over a warmer spread, and a noticeably short-lived crash, with the bell loud and stinging.

You can certainly play jazz on it, but there's the power and the edge to work in heavier, lairier contexts too. There's also an abrasiveness that surmounts the other instruments in the band. Pat Petrillo is a powerful drummer with a tasty line in everything from New Orleans grooves through classic soul to Broadway shows, and this cymbal has the versatility to cover all of that. The bright - you could even say tinny - stick response is emphasised by the starkly dry and short sustain, but clears

away to reveal a darker, more sumptuous element lurking underneath.

I fell totally in love with the 20" Renaissance immediately. It sounds as gorgeous as it looks. There's something magical about that vintage logo, while the Constantinople name summons up exotically dusky, edge-of-the-orient flavours.

Make no mistake, this is the most luxuriously soft, buttery, harmoniously cushioned ride ever. Yet the stick articulation is always crisp and clear. Where the 22" version has a bell which is unlathed underneath, this 20" has a smaller, low profile and over-hammered bell that is supple yet tinkly and fruity, seamlessly complementing the rest of the pliant surface.

The main ride character itself is low pitched yet authoritative and needs careful handling. You do need to play off the surface, preferably with a small(ish) beaded

## Also try...



### 1 ZILDJIAN K KEROPE CYMBALS

**We say:** "Zildjian harks back to the 1950s and 1960s for this richly characterful set with an authentic vintage twist."



### 2 SABIAN BIG AND UGLY RIDES

**We say:** "A stunning and intriguing set of high-end, provocative, challenging, complex, dark and great-to-play cymbals."

## K CUSTOM

21" Organic Ride has a unique wire-brushed surface, with a large bell adding to the powerful super-dry tone



stick. A bit of the superlative touch of a Nussbaum or Bill Stewart would come in handy. I took it out on a rare jazz gig, playing lots of ten-to-ten, but occasionally the band got fairly loud, whereupon I was a little taken aback to find the ride was more delicate than I had suspected. Remember, this was a particularly lightweight specimen and it



## RENAISSANCE RIDE

20" K Constantinople ride is at the summit of the cymbal maker's craft, soft and sweet, with a smooth dark and dry tone

## Essential spec



### PRICES

21" K Custom Organic ride, £369; 20" K Constantinople Renaissance ride, £429

### CAST OR PRESSED

Individually cast

### ALLOY USED

Zildjian B20 bronze

### WEIGHT

Organic: medium thin; Renaissance: medium-thin

### FINISH

Organic: wire brushed natural top, buffed underside; Renaissance: traditional, buffed top and bottom

### COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE

USA

### DIAMETERS AVAILABLE

Organic: 21"; Renaissance: 20", 22"

### MODELS AVAILABLE

Rides

### SUITABLE FOR

Organic: rock, jazz, soul, funk, r'n'b; Renaissance: jazz, acoustic, intimate settings

### CONTACT

Headstock Distribution  
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demands a certain elegance that was sometimes found a trifle wanting in the music (oh, alright, in the drummer).

Crashing and riding builds up a joyous controlled wash, but again being a light cymbal it requires judicious handling. The upshot is that this 20" may best be suited to a smaller combo, say a piano trio or intimate

acoustic, folk, worldly setting. Alternatively you could try the 22". And for a stronger jazz-soul setting you might find the K Keropes more suitable. The Keropes are a touch meatier, while the 20" Constantinople is cosier and spongier. I may be banging on a bit here but I massively rate this cymbal, utterly gorgeous and close to perfection. **R**

**VERDICT:** Two more Ks that will beguile your sonic taste buds. The 21" Organic is a bright but dry all-rounder, while the 20" Constantinople Renaissance ride is a gorgeous ultra-fine instrument – as good as it gets.

### BUILD QUALITY



### PLAYABILITY



### VALUE FOR MONEY



### RHYTHM RATING

