

NEW GEAR

EXCLUSIVE



KELLY SHU KICK DRUM MICROPHONE MOUNTING SYSTEM



From £85 Pete Riley explores a time-saving device that can guarantee the optimum bass drum sound on every gig

As well as setting up the kit, today's gigging drummer often has to mic it up as well. A common time- and energy-saving response to this extra work is to avoid putting up another stand and simply drop the bass drum mic onto the padding inside the drum. But this does neither the mic nor the drum justice because the mic won't be in the ideal position and part of its natural polar pattern will be blocked by the padding.

Enter the Kelly SHU, an aluminium (though a cheaper composite version is now available) bass drum mount in the shape of a horseshoe, which can be fitted inside or outside the drum and, once properly installed, could mean you never have to position the bass drum mic again.

Build

While internal mic'ing is not a new concept, the way the SHU supports the mic is unique.

A series of bungee straps spread the weight of the mic and clamp around various points of the drum, like a large spider on a rather rubbery web. According to Kelly SHU, this also offers a huge array of mic positioning options and excellent isolation from the shell.

Hands on

The well-packaged box arrives with a rather odd-looking assortment of clips, leather loops and rubber bungee material, as well as the mount itself and at first glance installing it all looks like an afternoon's work. However the loops easily attached under the nutbox screws inside the drum and, with the bungee cut to length and clips attached the mic, it was inside the drum in the desired position within 20 minutes. The flexibility of the bungee offers excellent isolation from a thudding kick drum, as well as from less intentional thuds during transit, while the mic clip simply screws into place on the SHU itself. It should be noted

here that this system is really designed for use with larger diaphragm mics such as Shure's Beta 52 or AKG's D112.

As well as installing the mic inside the drum, the SHU can be mounted from the lugs of the batter head to enable the mic to be placed over a sound hole. However, with a little work, some cable and connectors, the mic can be hard-wired inside and a full front head used. The downside of this is drilling your pride and joy, but the upside means no more sound engineers offering to cut holes in your bass drum head and always having your bass drum mic in the ideal position.

Verdict

If you're used to mic'ing your drums you'll know just how much time it adds to setting up for a gig or recording. Anything that can make it easier is going to be welcome if you're doing it regularly. The Kelly SHU does exactly this and, with a slick design that's easy to install and adjusts to your needs, it could be the answer to your bass drum-mic'ing prayers. **R**

Rating ★★★★★

ESSENTIAL SPEC



PRICE

From £85 (check latest prices with your nearest dealer)

SHU MATERIAL

Aluminium (composite version also available)

MOUNTING

Via rubber bungee material, clips and leather loops attached under nutbox screws

MOUNTING OPTIONS

Internal or external

CONTACT

Affinity Audio, Ltd.
Kings Langley
WD4 9HA
Tel: 01923-265400
www.affinityaudio.com
www.kellyshu.com