

TNR BOOTY SHAKERS

From £14 Chunks of magic foam that aim to put the 'Bah Boom' back into your drums...

WORDS: DAVE HOLMES

While we have seen many a product designed to enhance the sound of our beloved acoustic drums - metal drum mats, bass drum projection systems, isolation tom mounts, minimal contact shell hardware, you name it, we are also reliant on decent acoustic surroundings. So a helping hand at source is always welcome.

Build

American based company TNR Products have developed 'foam floaters' which they claim massively enhance low-end and increase resonance and sustain. There are two basic products currently available; there are Booty Shakers for the floor tom and Little Booty Shakers for the snare and/or rack tom.

Floor tom Booty Shakers are made from two layers of foam - the lower portion is extremely dense with a non-slip base, spreading the load of the tom foot over an 88mm diameter area. The top slice has a similar density to the foam found in studio sound-dampening and sports an aperture or 'slotted receptacle' where the foot of the floor tom leg is inserted.

The Little Booty Shakers follow the L-shape of the rubber grips on the snare basket. The foam has the same high density as the lower slices of the floor tom models and is attached via strips of Velcro to each snare basket arm.

Hands On

I am testing the products with my 14"x14" floor tom and 14"x5½" snare drum. Both drums are 100 percent maple and have a naturally warm tone and, in the case of the floor tom, a bucket load of sustain. Before using the Little Booty Shakers I was (and still am), quite happy with the overtone on my snare. I was a little concerned I would have to get a slice of Moongel but this seems counterproductive. Before I put either of the Shakers in position, there are a couple of wallops needed to acclimatise my ears to the natural sound of the drums.

Lowering each foot into the Shaker is all

that is required to attach them, then it's the turn of three Little Booty Shakers which are attached to the rubbers of the snare basket assembly. The basket aperture is widened slightly to accommodate the snare but fortunately, it still feels secure.

After a few hits I cannot detect any increase in resonance but the snare drum appears to be more gutsy. The floor tom seems particularly beefy and, though I have never had the desire to coax more resonance from this either, it does seem almost unstoppable, which perhaps will help with projection. **R**



BOOTY SHAKERS

Floor tom Shakers have two layers of foam and spread the load of the tom foot over an 88mm diameter area

VERDICT: Before using these pads, I have to admit to being wholly sceptical. However, to me (perhaps not to an audience!), there is a noticeable effect upon both drums. In particular, the lower end with the energy being transferred through the ultra-wide feet of the floor tom with the Booty Shakers and down through the snare stand with the Little Booty Shakers.

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

Essential spec



PRICES

Little Booty Shakers (for snare), £14; Booty Shakers, £21

MATERIAL

Polyethylene foam and Velcro

CONTACT

BR Distribution
 01207 282806
www.tnrproducts.com