

SOUNDLAB

Shine

Select Custom Drum Set

**AFFORDABLE
CUSTOM COOL**

By Brad Schlueter

Shine is a custom drum company with a great feel for the tastes of younger drummers. The company offers many types of shells, hardware, and finishes, and is dedicated to making high-quality custom kits at reasonable prices.

DETAILS

SHELLS 100 percent 7-ply North American maple

CONFIGURATION 12" x 9" mounted tom and 14" x 14", 16" x 16" floor toms, a 22" x 18" bass drum, and a 14" x 6.5" matching snare drum.

FINISH White Sand (with black stripes); Copper Sparkle (with white stripes); Turquoise Sparkle (with white stripe); and solid Platinum Silver Sparkle.

FEATURES Tube lugs; suspension tom mount; die-cast grommets for the air-vent holes and butt plate; four mod finishes; lightweight shells; add-on toms are available.

LIST PRICE 5-piece shell pack: \$1,998

CONTACT

Shine Custom Drums & Percussion
shinedrums.com
916-652-8053

Since Shine is smaller than some, it can turn around a custom kit in far less time than many other custom drum builders. I've reviewed the company's kits before and was very impressed with their workmanship and beautiful finishes. Realizing that drummers may need to watch their expenses a bit more closely, Shine has created a new line of high-quality drums that sell for a very affordable price.

SHELLS

The new Select Custom series features 7-ply 100 percent North American maple shells that use cross-gluе technology and tight hydraulic compression to create the tightest plying possible. This manufacturing terminology means Shine can create a slightly thinner shell on the Select Customs than on its other kits, while retaining all the full tone and rich low end its drums have become known for. While assembling the kit I checked and found that all the shells had very even and sharp 45 degree bearing edges, which

tend to add more brightness and sustain to drums.

CONFIGURATION

The Select Custom line has just one basic configuration: a 5-piece one-up/two-down kit with a 22" virgin bass drum and a 6.5"-deep rock snare. There are add-on toms available and sold separately in sizes 8" x 7", 10" x 8", 13" x 10", 18" x 16", and the option of adding a second bass drum.

It occurred to me that removing one of the floor toms and offering a 4-piece configuration would allow buyers to get into Shine's drums at an even lower price. It would also provide more latitude when designing kits, especially for drummers like me who often lack the stage depth (and car space) to comfortably use two floor toms. Of course, this one-size-fits-all approach of offering just one 5-piece configuration is the trade-off for keeping the price down for everyone.

FINISHES

Shine offers four striking modern

lacquer finishes: Copper Sparkle, Turquoise Sparkle, White Sand Sparkle (pictured), and Platinum Silver Sparkle. Each finish has its own unique striping pattern so each kit has a different look from the others. This gives the impression of a truly custom kit but at about half the price! If you don't like stripes, the solid Silver lacquer is your only current choice.

My finish was well done with very smooth lacquer and straight, sharp edges on the striping. The bass drum hoops were finished to complement and match the kit's finish. I took the snare out on a couple of gigs and the finish got plenty of compliments. Shine may be adding additional finishes in the future, so check its Web site for updates.

HARDWARE

These kits are offered as shell packs — drums only, though they do include floor tom legs and a tom suspension mount. The drums feature 2.3mm-thick triple-flanged hoops. They have vertically aligned pairs of mini-

tube lugs, except the snare, which uses a single longer one. Tube lugs are more expensive than the lugs most drums use with a housing and a separate nut — and they look it. But since the lug itself is threaded, a little extra care must be taken to avoid cross-threading.

The snare has ten lugs per head (a pro feature) and a simple throw-off that worked smoothly and was easy to fine-tune with the snares engaged and even had a nice die-cast butt plate. All the drums have die-cast air-vent grommets that add a beefier, masculine look to the drums.

The bass drum also has ten lugs per head but no tom mount, so you'll have to mount your tom off your hardware or in a separate snare basket, Stanton Moore-style. The bass drum has unlined

stamped steel claws that nicely fit their thick hoops, though I think Shine should consider cushioned claws to help protect the nice hoops. The bass drum has foldout spurs with retractable spikes and, like the tom brackets, uses a gasket to isolate it from the shell.

SOUND

The bass drum rocked my world. This drum had a great blend of attack, bottom and punch. The low end hung around for a bit after each stroke, making my grooves sound awesome and giving them a bit of extra oomph. I'm not a fan of wide-open, overly boomy bass drums, and this one had just the right amount of hang time, no doubt due in part to the 2-ply liquid-filled heads and the 2-ply ported front head. Sound engineers have dreams about bass drums that sound this good.

The 6.5"-deep maple snare was another winner and had a fat bottom beneath each note that would work quite well for rock at middle tunings. Think AC/DC. If you play heavier music and want

a drum that can get loud and still emit a warm tone, this drum will do the job. It's also forgiving, and seemed to smooth out my buzzes a bit more than an overly crisp metal drum would.

I took the snare out on a couple of gigs: a standard wedding gig playing everything from Journey to Lady Gaga, and a Live Karaoke gig that covers a few hundred tunes from different genres. I brought up the head and wire tension to make it more of a crisp pop snare and the drum worked marvelously at both events. I'm sorry to report that I actually preferred it to my regular snare, since I can't justify buying another one.

The snare drum had just the right amount of ring and rimshots never got out of hand (no pounding-the-anvil effect). The hoops were thick enough to give a good rim-click, too. It had a dry sound, but wasn't dead. It was just right on both gigs. It would be perfect for recording and sounded great in my in-ear monitors. If I wanted a bit more ring, a thinner head would do the trick.

The toms were also really nice. I particularly liked the floor toms, which when tuned low were meaty beasts with a good attack and a deep pitch but without any unwanted boom. They begged me to play jungle tom grooves, and I repeatedly gave in to their demands. The high tom sounded good, too, with a nice tone and not too much hang time. The heads and thin shells helped give the drums a fat tone with ample bottom, though if I wanted a bit more brightness and a touch more sustain I'd switch the batter heads to clear Emperors. 

VERDICT

These drums have a wonderfully fat tone with lots of low end that would work for many styles of music, especially rock. The styling of the drums, with the mini tube lugs, stripes, and great colors, is both hip and professional, and the finish was very well done. Best of all, the generous pricing brings the dream of owning a high-quality kit within the grasp of a lot more drummers.



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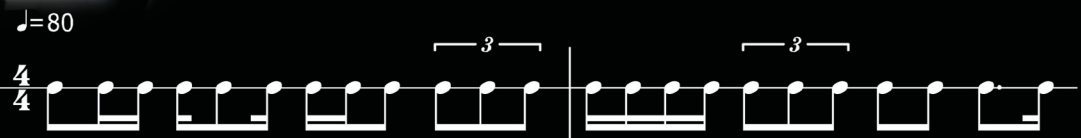
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