



Drumplates

Are Drumplates about to revolutionise your set-up? The full potential of this new product is yet to be felt. *Drummer* reveals why

words: Ian Croft images: Eckie

Drum development has progressed fairly radically over the past 20 years and cymbals and hardware are also now produced using all kinds of technological advancements. However, the means to keep all the potential moving parts locked into place has not seen significant progress since we discovered the benefits of using and carrying around a carpet to keep our kit in position. Drumplates are about to change that and here's why.

We first became aware of Drumplates when Simon Jayes at London Drum Company called up the *Drummer* office and mentioned this product. A few emails and a couple of weeks later and we are looking at the actual product set out in front of us and bearing the signature of one Chad Smith to boot. The

reason? These signed Drumplates are up for a competition in the next issue so ensure that you get your copy of *Drummer* and enter. Drumplates are the handy work and development of Dutch drummer Jan Koster who decided that a carpet, although adequate to prevent slippage and general movement, just did not look very professional. Koster also had the idea that manufacturing the plates from a 'hard' material might enhance the sonic properties that are emitted from every drum set that consequently are lost when the kit is set up upon a carpet. Carpet does reduce the frequency range as those frequencies are absorbed into the material and are therefore not fully projected.

Construction

The Drumplate that we have for review is the Junior Pro model that consists of two 1m x 1m plates manufactured from a black shiny plastic material that is flexible yet

robust enough to withstand the constant battering and carrying that it will be subjected to during the lifetime of this product. The drums are held firmly in position by means of up to 20 U-shaped Drumblocks that are fixed via a sticky adhesive backing. By utilising Velcro strips it is possible to strip and replace the blocks should you need to remove them when carrying the Drumplates around. Other colours are available - with clear and white being the two other options alongside our review model's black finish.

In Use

Drumplates are actually very simple to set up and once you've pulled the two 1m plastic plates from the carton, it only takes about 30 minutes to set up your average four-piece kit for the first time. It is essential that you position your kit so that none of the DP Drumblocks sit across the middle Velcro section that allows

the Drumplates to be folded into half for transportation purposes and that the bass drum is centered. Once you've achieved that it really does not take too long at all to pull the rest of your set into position. Each Drumblock has a peel-off sticky backing that adheres firmly to the plastic Drumplate and you simply place a Drumblock either side of the two bass drum spurs or hardware legs and off you go. Although this Drumplate model comes with 20 U-shaped blocks it quite possible to use only two blocks to ensure exact placement and non-movement of most kit items. Two Drumblocks a-piece were certainly enough to hold a Sonor hi-hat and snare drum stand in place, both featuring quite large round rubber leg-ends that fitted almost perfectly into each block. Equally, three Yamaha cymbal stands with long oblong rubber leg-ends also fitted neatly into the Drumblocks too. Once you have all the Drumblocks fixed firmly in the most important places you then use the peel-off numerical labels that Koster thoughtfully includes so that you can mark the base of each stand to correspond with the Drumblock that carries the same identifying number. This is pretty useful if like most drummers you use more than one cymbal stand for example. This coding allows you to place as many Drumblocks as

you'd care to and have the correct stand sit into position every time with minimum fuss. The Drumblocks are quite large, but have an air of authority about them and have 'robust' written all over them. The other advantage of the plates and blocks being of plastic origin is that it makes cleaning the whole set-up very easy and always keeps the Drumplates looking spotless and professional. Inevitably, carpet collects an abundance of muck and dirt, not to mention that holes start to appear after a while where spurs have been placed and although you can wash/clean a carpet, you can't possibly have it

look as classy as the Drumplates. Even beer won't permeate the Drumplates and that alone is reason enough to buy a set!

In Use

Once all 20 Drumblocks - or as many as you require - are positioned, your drums will stay firmly rooted to the spot and you can gig away with an easy mind that nothing is going to move. Transporting the Drumplates is also simple as the weight involved is so minimal and the whole set-up can be carried single-handedly.

Each leg rubber fitted snugly into place irrespective of whether it was a round or oblong leg-end and with the labeling available; positioning each stand consistently into place was a breeze. The increase in sound from the Drumplates surface is significant and if you get to work regularly in acoustically 'dead' venues, this system will solve your worst-case nightmares each and every time. Front of house engineers may well want to consider using a set of Drumplates as the boost to the audio pick-up is quite dramatic. Unfortunately, we did not have time to test the Drumplates in a studio setting, but we all agreed that Drumplates would make quite a contribution to the recording process as they amplified the sound of the acoustic instruments handsomely. **I**

Conclusion

Apart from the ease and consistent set-up that Drumplates deliver each and every time, there is the further significant advantage in using this system in that the Drumplates deliver you a brand new sounding drum set, the likes of which you have not quite heard before! Simply put, the hard plastic surface delivers additional high and low-end frequencies, making your kit sound punchier, brighter and hey... louder! Drumplates really do offer a significant improvement in your sound when around you is possibly the best part of several thousand pounds worth of gear and once set up upon Drumplates, that investment suddenly comes to life as you get to hear each instrument clearly expressing itself. When we were working on this review, there were times when we all stopped and looked at each other as the quality of sound that was reproduced via the Drumplates surface made all of us hear the kit anew. The fact that this system is neat, compact, highly portable and cleanable makes it a worthwhile investment. The fact that it transforms your kit sonically in the process makes it essential.

Heads Up

PRICES: £135.13
JUNIOR PRO MODEL
(2 x 1m plates & 20 Drumplates)

UPBEATS:

- ▲ Consistent set-up
- ▲ Lightweight
- ▲ Massive sonic improvement

DOWNBEATS:

None

CONTACT:

London Drum Company
Tel: 0208 662 9119
www.londondrumcompany.com
www.drumplates.com

