Vinnie Colaiuta

Highlights of MD's Drum Festival '93

Introduction to Tabla

Plus:
- New Drums from DW
- Impressions with Steve Smith
- In the Studio for the First Time
- Joe Franco's Double Bass Grooves
New Vater Sticks

Vater has introduced six new stick models and three new timpani mallets. Stick additions include: the LA (hickory, 17” long, SB grip, triangular tip), the Pro Rock (hickory, 16½” long, 5A-style grip, oval tip, sturdy neck), the Fusion (hickory, 16”, between a 5A and SB grip, round bead), the Super Jazz (hickory, 16½”, jazz-style grip), Studio (hickory, 15½”, barrel tip), and the Piccolo (maple, 16”, 2B-style grip, gradual taper, small, round bead). The LA, Pro Rock, and Fusion models all come with either wood or nylon tips; other styles are only available with wood tips.

Vater’s new timpani mallets all feature tapered shafts and a new round, felt-head design. Available models are the T-5 Classic Staccato (medium felt), T-6 Classic General (medium hard), and T-7 Classic Legato (soft). Vater Percussion, 28 Burnley Road, Norwood, MA 02062.

Magstar Custom Drums

Magstar is a complete drum repair, restoration, and custom building service. The company constructs the drums from raw shell to finished product, specifically tailoring their sound, projection, and looks to a customer’s desires. Shells are all-maple with staggered seams and feature either 6-, 8-, or 10-ply, cross-laminated shells. Number of plies, bearing edge cut, head type, and type of finish (including hammered-metal look, custom lacquer, or a choice of over thirty-five coverings) are all the choice of the customer. Shell interiors are hand-sealed and lugs and hoops are black wrinkle powder-coated. All Magstar drums are satisfaction-guaranteed, and free estimates and technical advice are available. Magstar, P.O. Box 591, Shutesbury, MA 01072, (413) 259-1004.

Ludwig Vector Marching Drum Improvements

Ludwig has made improvements on their Vector marching snare drum, including adding wide-angle snare guards, which are securely attached to the drum’s bottom hoop. The guards also act as feet to stabilize the drum when resting on the ground, and they also protect the bottom head and snares from touching the ground. A rubber gasket has been added as well to isolate resonance between the lugs and shell. New Vectors also incorporate polished aluminum die-cast hoops, which add strength but make the drum lighter. Ludwig Industries, P.O. 310, Elkhart, IN 46516.

Ryzer-Rax

The Makers of Ryzer-Rax claim that their system is the first combination drum riser/rack system/transport case. Ryzer-Rax come in two models: The Stage model is for single-bass acoustic or electronic drumsets; the Tour model is for double-bass kits. Both feature fold-away racks and legs, making them compact and portable, with all parts remaining attached during transport. In addition, when folded, the Stage model has storage space for hardware, while the Tour model can store hardware and drums. Both models will hold bass drums up to 24” and have a maximum height of 68”. Ryzer-Rax are made of square aluminum tubing and will accommodate Pearl pipe clamps, but are also available with standard round tubing. They may also be purchased without the upper or lower rack sections. Ryzer-Rax, c/o CSS, 9823 Hilaro Springs Road, Little Rock, AR 72209, (501) 565-7998.