

# TRX Cymbals

TRX tempts us with some deeply esoteric cymbal options with Flat rides and Splash Chinas

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**O**ften, *Drummer* gets sent full sets of cymbals comprising all the traditional elements such as hats, crashes and rides to review, so when a carton from TRX revealed Flat rides and Splash Chinas, we naturally became quite excited.

Having a few mysterious cymbals scattered around your set-up can inspire you to discover different dynamic sounds and tones, allowing you to breath new life into perhaps old tunes that you've played consistently for what seems an age. But, once you start to include cymbals that create unusual sounds into places that the rest of the band are not expecting can make a gig become a very lively affair, not to mention downright attention grabbing. Equally, certain cymbals can alter the vibe instantly and the TRX DRK series Flat rides are the instant 'chill pill', sprinkling a tune with crystal tones. First up though, let's get angry!

### MULTI-CULTURAL ACCENT

TRX's handcrafted Turkish MDM series Splash China cymbals have the potential to offer more attention-grabbing sonics than perhaps you'd really want to hoist upon your fellow band mates without some level of forewarning. Especially, as they are pocket-sized hornets that may have just escaped their attention. These medium weight cymbals

with a traditional style lathing, buffing and hammering, suggest an all-purpose line developed to handle a diversity of contemporary musical needs and both drummers and percussionists may well want to investigate the potential of three Splash Chinas - 9", 10" and 11" - that are certainly small enough to be comfortably slotted into areas where bigger cymbals might fear to tread. These cymbals are thin and trashy combining elements of both a splash cymbal and a China cymbal. Accents fly fast from the end of your stick - hit it and it's gone with few lingering overtones. Bit like a fat bug hitting your windscreen at 70mph - 'splat' - gone! There is an oriental element to the sound produced along with an element of traditional splash sound. Think - a splash that has been trodden upon, beaten to within and inch of its life and then given the kiss of life by Angelina Jolie. Perkins prevails.

### CRYSTAL CONVEYOR

The TRX DRK series cymbals have a very low-profile design with an almost flat taper or bow and are un-lathed except for an area immediately at the outer edge and even the lathing at this point is minimal, though, the hand hammering is extensive across the unfinished body. TRX says that it use a pre-aging process to further enhance the rich dark tones that the series tends to exude.

The DRK Flat rides are available in 18", 20" and 22" diameters and the models feel quite weighty in your hand. As the title implies the cymbals are bereft of a bell and jazz players or those that play in quiet situations will find that the somewhat lack of overtone build up and the almost precise notes that spring forth from

these cymbals make them highly usable in such environments as fast patterns remain audible and concise without too much build-up. Flat rides are a little one dimensional - you probably do not want to crash upon them, or expect them to respond to such playing, but their very purpose is to provide pinpoint patterns that offer a healthy amount of sparkle, yet still retain a level of warmth and large amounts of musicality and these cymbals certainly do just that. There is a sweet level of 'singing' after each stroke, but the following stroke subdues the overtones as you continue the pulse. **D**

### CONCLUSION

The Splash Chinas provide lightening fast accents without being too aggressive and they should appeal across the percussive range of players. Their small sizing also makes them easy to site around the kit without affecting your main cymbal set-up. The Flat rides were enjoyable to play with the 20" excelling, producing bright rich tones with a slight pitch range - nearer the hole the higher the note and if played towards the outer edge the pitch dipping to a dark low musical note. It was refreshing to play cymbals that I'd not normally use and it did open my mind to the potential for including one or two esoteric cymbals into my set-up.

## HEADS UP

### PRICES:

9" Splash China	£98
10" Splash China	£110
11" Splash China	£126
18" DRK Flat Ride	£195
20" DRK Flat Ride	£252
22" DRK Flat Ride	£279

### UPBEATS:

#### SPLASH CHINA

- ▲ Sizing allows for good placement
- ▲ Unique accent sound

#### FLAT RIDE

- ▲ Concise musical notes
- ▲ Lack of overtone build-up

### DOWNBEATS:

None

### CONTACT:

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