

How To Buy Drums "Check List"

My TOTAL Budget... \$ _____

Your Notes

Shell Material:

MAPLE

(Good All-Around)

- Warm Tone
- Substantial Low End
- Descent Projection

BIRCH

(Heavy Funk/Rock)

- Brighter Tone
- Greater Attack
- Shorter Sustain
- Slightly Louder

BEECH

(Not As Versatile As Maple But Still Good For Many Styles)

- Sustain & Tone Between Maple & Birch
- Great Balance Of High, Mid, & Low Tones
- Slightly Louder Than Maple

Mahogany

(Fattens Up Music. Not Great For Music With Lots Of Fast Punches.)

- Mids & Highs Similar To Maple
- Massive Low End
- Heavy

Shell Thickness:

(*Remember, There Is No Industry Standard. Pay Attention To Total Shell Thickness!)

- Less Plies = Lower Tones
- Thicker Shell = Higher Pitch

Bearing Edges:

30°

(Try To Avoid This One, It Is Not Worth The Hassle.)

- Least Drastic Edge
- Tends To Rest In The Collar Of Drum Head
- Can Cause Unwanted Vibration & Overtones

45°

(Experiment With This One.)

- More Drastic Cut
- Can Still Rest In The Collar Of Head
- Unwanted Vibration & Overtone Still A Concern

Double 45°'s

(Wider Tonal Range & Longer Sustain. MUCH Easier To Tune.)

- Sharp Edge In Center Of Shell Plies
- Rests On Flat Part Of Head Away From Collar
- Allows Head & Shell To Resonate Freely

Rounded

(Ideal For Larger Drums.)

- More Shell Contacts The Drum Head
- Results In A Bit More Muted Sustain
- Tones Are More Bottom Heavy

Reinforcement Hoops:

(May Help Keep Drums From Going Out Of Round)

- How Thick Are My Shells?
- May Raise The Pitch & Increase Sustain A Bit

Finish:

Stain

- Check If This Is Just The Outer Ply.

How To Buy Drums "Check List"

(Looks Nice But Scratches Easily. To Repair You Will Need To Have It Sanded, Stained, & Finished Again.)

-Comes In Matte Or Gloss Finish

Wrap

(If Damaged, This Can Be Removed & A New Layer Applied.)

*-May Change Pitch & Sustain A Bit
-Know What You Want, The Possibilities Are Endless.*

Mounting:

Direct Mount

(Changes Tone, Pitch, & Sustain.)

*-Hardware Is Mounted Directly To The Shell.
-Extra Holes Are Drilled In The Shell To Accommodate Hardware.*

Free Floating

(Allows Shell To Produce Its Truest Pitch.)

*-Mounting Hardware Is Designed To Mount Around The Shell.
-Minimizes Holes Drilled In Shell.*

Snare Drums:

Shell Material... (Non Wood Shells)

Steel

(Best Suited For Heavy Rock & Funk Applications.)

*-Lively High Tones
-Loud
-Substantial Sustain*

Brass

(A Great All Around, Versatile Sound.)

*-Broader Tonal Range
-Warmer Sound
-Still Possesses Quite A Crack*

Aluminum

*-Tone Warmth Between Steel & Brass
-Shorter Sustain Than Steel
-Clean Crisp Crack.*

Bronze

*-Slightly Warmer Sounding Metal
-Does Not Have Quite As Much High End Tone
-Less Obnoxious "Crack"*

Copper

*-Substantial Low End
-Very Responsive
-A Bit Limited In Its Application*

Venting

(Shells With A Lot Of Venting Are Great For Larger Venues & Heavy Rock Or Funk Applications.)

*-More Holes = Less Sustain & Less Resonance

-More Holes = Increased Volume
-Extremely Limited*

Shell Thickness

*-Metal Snares Are Measured In Millimeters
-Thinner Shell = Lower Pitch, Thicker Shell = Higher Pitch
-Thick Wood Shells Increase Volume & High Tones*

Snare Wires

*-More Wires = More "Buzz" Sound, Less Wires = More Shell Tone
-20 Strands Is Common*

How To Buy Drums "Check List"

-Sound Is Controlled By Adjusting Tension On The Wires

Shell Depth

*-Piccolo: 3" – 4.5" Deep
-Standard: 5" – 5.5" Deep
-Deep: 6"- 10" Deep*

Shell Diameter

*-Popcorn: 10" Diameter
-Soprano: 12" and 13" Diameter
-Standard: 14" Diameter*

Cymbals:

(Thinner = Quieter, Thicker = Louder. Decide Between Sheet Or Cast.)

Hi Hat

*-Tops & Bottoms Can Be Mixed Thicknesses
-Vented Bottom Cuts Sustain & Changes Tone
-Most Common Size Is 14"*

Ride

(Larger Bells Are Used For Rock & Louder Types Of Music.)

*-Available In Various Sizes, Thicknesses, & Bell Sizes
-Larger Bell Is Louder & Cuts Through Music
-Most Common Size Is 20"*

Crash

*-Common Set Up Is 16", 17", & 18".
-Adjust Size & Thickness To Suit Your Needs
-Try Using A Large Thin Crash To Get A "Trashy Ride" Sound*

Splash

*-Common Sizes Are 8" & 10"
-Quick, Short Sustain
-Great To "Color" Accents & Fills*

China

*-Extremely Trashy Sound
-Thickness Dramatically Affects Sustain
-Common Sizes Are 18" & 20"*

Special Effects

*-Anything Goes
-Just Try Various Configurations To See What You Like
-Great Way To Add "Spice" To Your Sound*

****Don't Forget About The Possibilities Of Rivets Or Sizzles If You Want To Change Your Sound A Bit***