The month of May saw another first for Sonor: Sonor Days 1992. Over 500 people were on hand in New York City and Seattle, Washington to see some of the world's finest drummers in action on Sonor Drums.

Sunday, May 17th was the date for Sonor Day In N.Y., held at the Parsons School of Design in midtown Manhattan. This event was co-sponsored by Sabian Cymbals and Sam Ash Music, and featured Bobby Rock, Bernard Purdie, Simon Wright, and Tal Bergman. Tal came with Yossi Fine, a phenomenal bass player, and Danny Sussnick, percussionist with the Billy Idol band. Tal began with an improvised solo, and then talked about how he plays various Billy Idol tunes, showed technique examples, and performed tunes with Yossi and Danny. A well-kept secret in the business—until now—Tal amazed the audience with his high-energy and accurate, flawless playing. Simon Wright showed why he is one of the premier solid rock drummers by playing two extended drum solos, including solid backbeat playing and multi-drum fills. Bernard Purdie, known for his playing on countless record dates, proved he is still "The Master at groove playing. His famous "Purdie Shuffle" had the New York crowd cheering more than once.

The King of Finesse, Purdie was truly revered by all drummers in the house. Headlining the day was Bobby Rock, who began with a drum solo warm-up, and then took questions from the crowd regarding everything and anything about his playing, lifestyle, health regimen, and touring with Van Halen and Nelson. Bobby incorporated many musical styles into his playing that day, and truly showed his stamina.

Also in attendance at Sonor Day In New York were such luminaries as Liberty DeVitto, Andy Zildjian from Sabian Cymbals, Bob Cotton and Bob Saydowski from SS-Sonor, and Terry Litestet from Sam Ash Music. Approximately 200 people attended the event.

Sonor Day In Seattle was held Sunday, May 21st in association with American Music at The Reckstage—a nightclub in downtown Seattle. Artists performing that day were Steve Smith, Bobby Rock, Adam Nussbaun, and Tal Bergman. Tal started off the day with some blazing drumming, showing why he was the only logical candidate for the Billy Idol gig. Adam Nussbaun performed with two local musicians (bassist and saxophonist) and took the crowd through bebop and jazz playing. Adam's sensitivity showed through in his drumming and his answers to questions posed by drummers in the room who wanted to "get into the head" of Adam Nussbaun as his lifetime of drumming experiences.

The stage change and intermission was an ideal time for Bobby Rock and Steve Smith to make last-minute adjustments to their drums. This "freeform" soon transformed into an impromptu drum duo to the delight of the audience, with Bobby and Steve playing with and against each other, trading fours, etc. After escaping to the dressing room for a brief moment, Bobby Rock came out to do his clinic. Like in New York, Bobby laid down some incredible rock solos and gave a good education to all in attendance. Bobby brought Steve Smith up at the end, and the two drummers gave another mind-blowing duo performance. Steve started off after lunch and began his portion of Sonor Day In Seattle by playing an extended solo that travelled through every musical style imaginable. Truly the Master of Drumming, Steve held the crowd in awe every minute.
NEW FORCE 1000 DRUMKIT

Sonor's new Force 1000 drums are made in Germany to the same exacting manufacturing standards as the popular Force 2000® series. They offer the quality sound that Sonor is famous for, at a price that now anyone can afford.

Force 1000 drums feature the same tabular leg design as the Force 2000®, 3000, and HiLite Series drums. 9-ply poplar wood shells with 45° bearing edges are the basis for a great drum sound with high projection. Three coated finishes are available: high gloss black, white, and red.

A complete new single-braced hardware line comes with the Force 1000 series, including a chain-driven bass drum pedal and hi-hat stand. All stands are fitted with memory clamps for quick, easy setup. The new 1000 double tom holder and bass drum spares offer stability and easy setup. Force 1000 is the best choice for any drummer looking for Sonor quality at an affordable price.

NEW COLORS FOR HILITE, FORCE 2000, FORCE 3000

Sonor is now offering three new contemporary colors for Force 2000®, 3000, and HiLite drums. The Force 2000® drum series is now available in High-Gloss Purple (GP) celluloid covering. Added to the HiLite series is the new Dark Violet (DV) lacquer finish, while the Force 3000 has a fifth additional color in Winter Green Metallic (WG). These new colors offer a nice alternative for the drummer who wants his Sonor kit to be slightly different from the norm.

SONOR WORLD BEAT  JULY 1992

14x16 TOMTOMS AVAILABLE FOR HILITE AND FORCE 3000

14x16 tom-toms have been added to the Sonor HiLite and Force 3000 series as an accommodation for those drummers wanting to have a stand-mounted floor tom in 16" diameter.
Hi there everyone —
Well, this is an honor! I was asked by Sonor to write a few words for this here newsletter. To see a company nowadays take an attitude like this is really refreshing. Our industry needs more ideas like Sonor’s — to carry drums, percussion, and playing to more people. Smashing!

What’s happening right now?
Well, as I’m sure you know, the Force 2000 series has been available to you all for a couple of years now. I believe it premiered at the 1990 NAMM show in the States. A great kit! I had the pleasure of getting an inside look at it just before its introduction. A beauty, don’t you think? The hardware is stunning. To me, it has a kind of art-deco look. Lots of round, chunky, curvy fittings. Also, the bass drum leg locks are brilliant. Once you’ve established your position for the drum, the memory gauges are simple to use and secure.

The sound of this kit is magic! The toms have a really nice warmth to them. They’re made of a relatively soft poplar 9-ply wood, but the attack and power of them are quite stunning. I used a Force 2000 on my “Rhythm Of The Beast” video, and found it records really well. I had a great time with the kit. Well, I had the pleasure of attending the NAMM show this past January, which was a great time for me as it enabled me to meet a lot of you guys and gals.

Also, I was able to get a close look at the Force 1000; the newest member of the Sonor family. This kit is very similar to the 2000 — the same shell and shell fittings. The most noticeable difference is the hardware. Unlike its sister kit, the 2000, this hardware isn’t made at the Sonor factory. But everything else is assembled at Sonor in Aue, Germany. A great kit to join the Sonor family with. It’s not over-expensive, it’s affordable and a sound investment (ha ha ha!) No, really, it’s a very good value and a most serious drumkit.

On tour this year with the band, I’ll be using a new Signature kit in White Sparkle and a special snare drum of my own design, a 6-1/2” bronze shell. This drum was made by Karl-Heinz Menzel from Sonor Germany in 1989. It’s awesome and maybe a bit difficult to tune at first, but when you get it, it’s a beast of a sound. I’m really proud of this drum.

Just one more thing before I go. On the new Maiden album, I used my old Sonor XK9212 Phonic kit. It’s the same drum set I used on Piece Of Mind, and Powerslave. It sounds brilliant like all Sonor drums do! Even after seven years in its boxes, it still worked superbly well.

Here’s to you, Sonor, for making the best in the world, and here’s to another 17 years together.

Keep on rockin’ —
Take care,

Nicko McBrain

SONOR WORLD BEAT  JULY 1992

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SONOR

ARTIST NEWS

Chester Thompson touring stadiums with Genesis this summer. The band’s USA portion ended in late June, and they moved on to Europe to continue selling out shows. Chester is using his new Signature Special Edition drumkit on the tour. ... Ron Wiskar, previously with Cher, has joined The Storm, replacing another Sonor drummer, Steve Smith. While Steve recorded the album, Ron did the roadwork when the band went out to open for Bryan Adams. ... Nicko McBrain hits the road with Iron Maiden this summer in support of their new album ‘Fear Of The Dark’. Nicko’s new kit for the tour is a White Sparkle Sonor signature. ... Jeff Watts and his Little John Red Maple kit are seen nightly on NBC’s Tonight Show With Jay Leno. ... Sonor welcomes new artists Danny Carey (Tool), Shawn Johnson (Metal Funk), Wally “Gator” Watson (Junior Hampton), Sherman Ferguson, Ronny Kue, Tony Dunne, and Rodney Bryant (Family Band). ... Former Dokken drummer Mikkey Dee now with Motörhead. Mikkey is now using a Sonor Force 2000 kit live and in the studio. ... John Tempesta and Exodus have finished tracks for their next album to be titled ‘Force Of Habit’, coming out in August. The band also played at Koko Beach’s (MTV Headbangers Ball Hottest Party). John has been busy as usual, performing in Israel at the Jerusalem Jazz Festival in May, doing a seminar in a renovated Bavarian castle in July, giving clinics at home and abroad, and recording a new Vital Information LP at his home studio. Look for its release in September. ... Another busy Sonor drummer, Tal Bergman, has been recording with June Child, Oshka Khan, and Dweezil Zappa in addition to working on the next Billy Idol album. Congratulations to Susan and Adam Nussbaum on the birth of their second child, Zachary Solomon born May 4th, and to, Rebecca and Nicko McBrain who also had a baby boy, Justin. ... Charlie Quintana on tour with Bob Dylan, as well as working on a project with ex-Queens & Roses member Izzy Stradlin. ... Will Calhoun has taken delivery of a custom Italia kit finished in Yellow Lacquer for use on Living Colours third album currently in the works. Will has also completed a duo project with Jack DeJohnette which should be released sometime this year. and he performed daily at the Sonor booth at this year’s Frankfurt Fair in Germany. ... Will Kennedy recently did clinics in Osaka and Tokyo, and is now on tour with The Yellowjackets. Check out their newest release ‘Love Wires’ to hear Will and his Signature Special Edition kit recorded live. ... New Sonor endorser Gota Yashira from Simply Red is currently doing a world tour throughout the USA, Japan, Europe, and Australia. ... Frank Celenza and Baby Animals spent most of the first five months of 1992 on tour with Van Halen. ... The 1992 Berlin, Moscow, and Montreux Jazz Festivals will be fully serviced by Sonor. ... Tedd Bryant out with Peter Murphy in support of the new album ‘Holy Smoke’... Danger Danger and Steve West went out on the road with Kiss in the U.K. ... Top German drummer Udo Dahmen recently conducted a workshop at AIM (American Institute of Music) Vienna, Austria. ... Herb Shucker on tour with country star Tracy Lawrence. The newly formed European percussion ensemble Tam Tam l’Europe had their first seasons in Reims, France this May. The ensemble is an exciting mixture of modern/metallic/African drum styles incorporating theater. The troupe consists of 12 drummers and is led by Francis Lassus. ... Beemn Stevenon and his new band Marline have released their debut album ‘Double Eclipse’. The band tours with Mr. Big this summer. ... Bobby Rock on the clinic trail in the U.S. this year during a break from Nelson. Bobby has plans to release his first solo album by the end of the year and record Nelson’s second LP. ... Adam Nussbaum recently finished recording an album with the new John Abercrombie Trio to be released later this year on ECM Records. Adam is also busy performing around the world with such artists as Danish bassist Niels-Henning Orsted Pedersen, Carla Bley, and Toos Thielenman ... Michael Lean and Taff recording their second album. ... Martin Ditcham is currently doing percussion on the Marilyn Muller Western-Hagen tour. Plans for a new Sade album and touring are in the pipeline. ... Paul Quinn is currently touring the U.S. with Soup Dragons. Supporting the Dragons are Catherine Wheel and Sonor drummer Neil Simms.
SONOR DRUMMERS WIN HONORS IN MODERN DRUMMER READERS POLL

The results of the annual Modern Drummer Readers Poll were released in the magazine’s July 1992 issue. Sonor Artist Steve Smith was named an Honor Roll member by virtue of his #1 placement as Best All-Around Drummer for five consecutive years. Steve also won #3 Electric Jazz Drummer this year. Will Calhoun, drummer with Living Colour, was voted #1 Progressive Rock Drummer and #3 Funk Drummer. Jazz great Jack DeJohnette placed #2 Mainstream Jazz Drummer, while Chester Thompson was voted #2 Pop/Mainstream Rock Drummer. Jeff Watts (with Branford Marsalis and NBC’s Tonight Show With Jay Leno) won #3 Mainstream Jazz Drummer, and the Yellowjackets’ Will Kennedy placed in two categories: Electric Jazz and Mainstream Jazz. Sonor is proud to have these great artists as part of our family. Congratulations to all!

DOWN UNDER REPORT by John Barrie Dyke

STEVE SMITH PERFORMS AT DRUMTEK OPENING IN AUSTRALIA

In late January 1992, Steve Smith did two capacity clinics and a series of master classes for the grand opening of Drumtek, the new Sonor magazine in Melbourne (and one of the best designed shops on the planet). Steve put on a performance that won’t leave the lips of Melbourne’s drumming community for a long time. The store’s owner (and Sonor endorser) Frank Corniola and his wife Lesley have finally realized their dream. The store has 15 Sonor sets on display, a studio, performance room, and teaching rooms. Ian Wallace popped into Drumtek in April to do a Sonor clinic while on tour with Bob Dylan.

ARTIST ACTIVITY

Well worth checking out is Darren Farrugia on Hey Hey It’s Saturday. Darren conducted master classes at Drumtek in March... Andrew Gander is now playing with Vince Jones after a successful stint with Tonight Live. Vince Jones and Band will be

BABY ANIMALS COMPLETE MAJOR TOURS

New Aussie band Baby Animals have recently completed two major tours supporting Van Halen in the USA, and Bryan Adams in Europe, as well as doing a solo tour through Australia, U.K., and Europe. Drummer Frank Celenza was recently at the Sonor factory checking out a new kit (Sonor-lite in Scandinavian Birch). The band is set to pack the stadiums at home and in New Zealand before taking a well-deserved break. They recently appeared on the David Letterman show in the U.S., and on Rocklive Live aus dem Schlachthof in Germany. Certainly a band to check out!

SONOR® is proud to be a participant in

NOVEMBER INTERNATIONAL DRUM MONTH

Sonor supersite "Drumkool", Melbourne Australia

SONOR WORLD BEAT JULY 1992
STICKTIPS: Practice Makes Perfect

We're midway through 1992, and I wonder if you've kept any of those New Year resolutions you made by fitting in daily practice. If you have, well done. If you haven't, don't worry. You're not alone. Many drummers find it hard to maintain a regular practice routine. The key is to find a method that works for you and stick with it.

Understanding written notation. You may not have a use for it at this moment, but consider your drumming career later in life. You might get into studio work, symphonic playing, or even teaching. Being able to read will help you get through many musical situations you might encounter, and you may even find a new idea or two in the books. There are many drum books on the market to assist in this type of practice, so search out the good ones and start in on them. Even if you're experienced in reading, incorporating a brush-up in your daily schedule surely won't hurt.

Length of Practice

The length of practice will vary from drummer to drummer; some can put in three hours a day with no problem, while others have a tough time logging one hour. The best time is when you get bored and tired and the ideas stop flowing. Going past that point, you won't accomplish much. However, I've found a logical way to divide up practice time so the work gets done, and you're also able to put in some 'play time'. So, take the phone off the hook, turn off the television, and study.

Home practice (or even on-the-road practice) can be split into four sections: warm up, reading, technique, and free play. Each quadrant should be given equal time, but it's always OK to go over your planned time limit for each part if you need to. The warm up portion can be used to get your hands, fingers, wrists, arms, etc. ready for what will come. Suggestions for this area could be various stretches, rudimental sticking (or footing) patterns, playing hand-to-hand patterns at various speeds, etc.

Reading Music

The second quadrant of your practice schedule involves reading drum music, for just snare drum or full drumkit. No matter what style of music you play, it's always good to cultivate a solid background in reading and understanding written notation. You may not have a use for it at this moment, but consider your drumming career later in life. You might get into studio work, symphonic playing, or even teaching. Being able to read will help you get through many musical situations you might encounter, and you may even find a new idea or two in the books. There are many drum books on the market to assist in this type of practice, so search out the good ones and start in on them. Even if you're experienced in reading, incorporating a brush-up in your daily schedule surely won't hurt.

Technique

Working out techniques is the next step, and this can be done either in conjunction with printed material, or on your own, to work out patterns you've heard. At all times, consider the physicality of what you're doing, which is a major part of developing technique - arm and stick heights, hand and wrist angles, grips, movements, volumes, and so on. Players like Steve Smith and Will Kennedy have tons of technique, and they've put in many hours developing it to their present levels. It isn't the sort of thing you can go and buy at the corner store - it takes work.

Whenever feasible, try to incorporate a metronome into your practicing. A weak spot for many drummers is their tempo, and since we all know that steady tempo is a major asset to getting the gig, it's always a good idea to work with a metronome to improve upon this important part of playing drums.

Free Practice

The last quadrant of your daily practice routine is your own self-reward for the time and work you've already put in for the day, and that is free play. Free play means, in essence, doing whatever you want to do, be it playing

Covering all four areas every day enables you to have 'perfect practice' each time. Don't take the lazy person's route by leaving out a section, or dropping time from one, because you're only cheating yourself. Your own motto is 'Never Be Satisfied'. You can do well, but there's always one step further you can go to do even better. Don't just be satisfied with mustering a specific drumset pattern. Stretch it out and transform it a bit by changing the tempo, accents, feel, and then think of how you can apply the pattern and its variations to your regular playing. Don't be satisfied with one hour's practice - try to extend it a little more each day. Don't be satisfied with your sound, tempo, and technique - push yourself and take the steps to constantly improve yourself.

Perfect practice involves all your physical and mental functions. If you set up the routine every day and adhere to it, I guarantee you'll see results (hmmm... sounds like a weight-loss commercial). The drummers that make it over the humps have the drive and the skills to get to the top of the pile. For every day you make an excuse not to practice, another drummer somewhere in the world is putting in his time and getting ready to overtake you. Look at the competition, think of how hard they're working, and realize there's no reason why you should be left out of the running, as there's always room for more good drummers.

Bob Sagalinski, Jr.

Bob Sagalinski, Jr. is Sonor USA Artist Relations Manager at HIS, Inc.
THE PRICE OF FAME
JUST GOT LOWER.

Introducing the Force 1000. A new, affordable drum set from Sonor. With the craftsmanship, high quality features and sound that Sonor drums are famous for, at a price that's practical for all drummers. Check one out at your nearest dealer. Fame may have its price, but who says it has to be high?

"If you're serious about drumming, the Force 1000 is the best way to go."

Bobby Rock