

When only
the best is good enough

♪ SONOR DRUMS



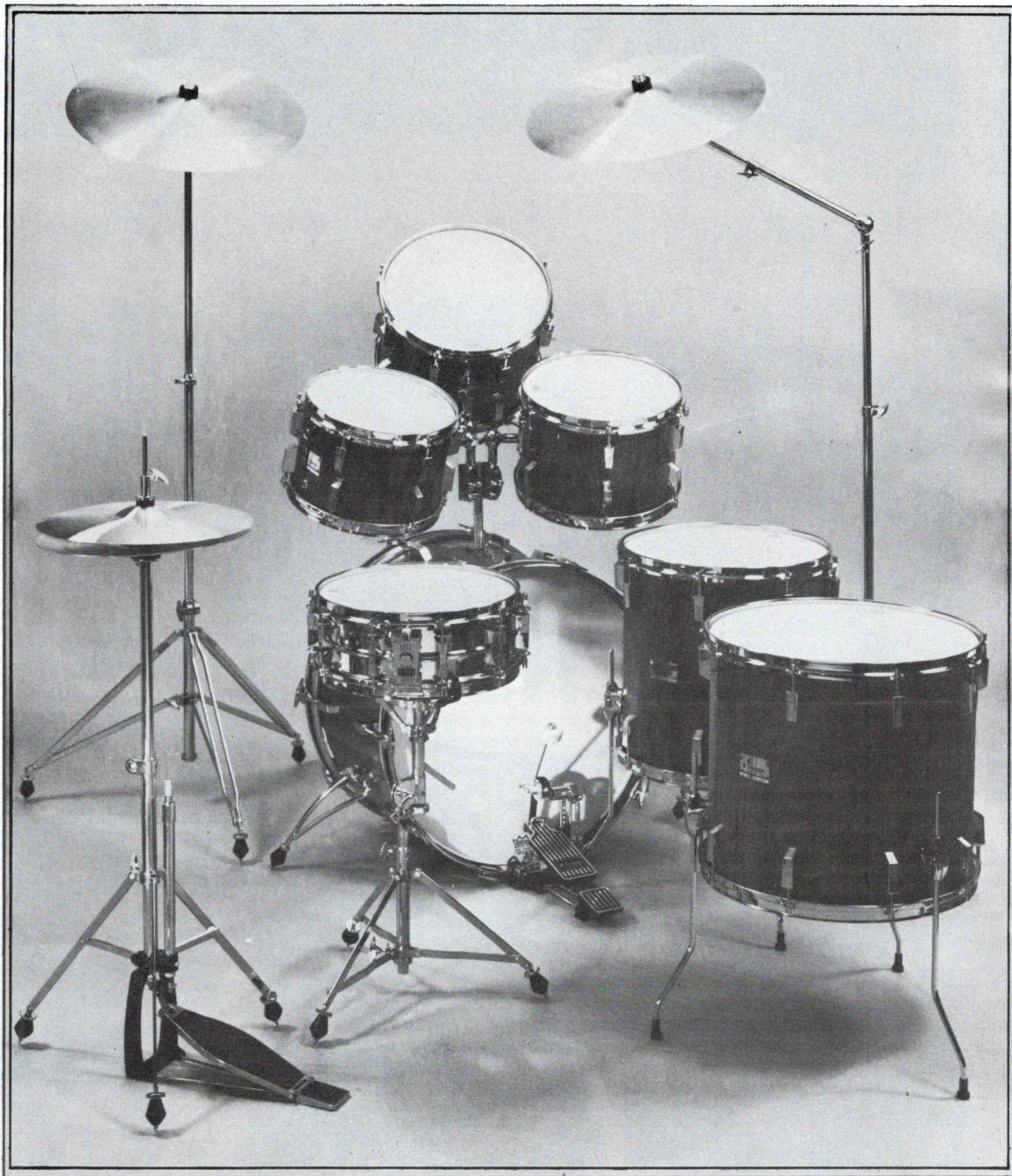
♪ SONOR

DRUMCHECK

TEST ON: *Sonor Wood Finish Kit*

DATE *December 1975*

PRICE *£500 Approx.*



Until now the U.K. has never apparently been part of Sonor's plans to market drums in their usual efficient manner. However, some of this magazine's readers will at odd times have come across Sonor drums that somehow do not fit into the slot that we have reserved in our minds for Sonor drums.

Consequently, I did not really know what to expect when Sonor invited me to test their "new for 1976" Drum Kit. Believe me, I was pleasantly surprised, as I believe you will be.

Materials

All the shells on this kit are a "monster 9 ply thick". This is at least 2 ply more than your average good quality drum kit from the States. I expect many drummers to agree that heavy solid shells mean a heavy solid sound and I think that the shell thickness is an important good point on this kit. Couple this with Remo Weatherking heads as standard and a good sound should result.

Drum sizes available are 22" Bass Drum, Tom-Toms 12 x 8, 13 x 9, 14 x 10, 16 x 16, 18 x 16, as well as a 14 x 5 metal snare drum.

Bass Drum

Large chromed double metal rods coming out and meeting at the screwed spike or rubber feet are a feature on this bass drum. They fold away well and in actual use, they held the bass drum as well as any on drums today. An internal bass drum damper is also fitted to the batter head.

Tom-Toms

The spurs also have a dual role because this kit has a Tom-Tom fitting that is second to none. Sonor have decided that double mounted and double floor Tom-Toms are not enough for the creative drummer of today. Therefore, the standard double Tom-Tom holder can now take an easily bolted-on third Tom-Tom. The triple cluster of Tom-Toms consequently needs a good set of bass drum spurs for stability,

and I found that this was indeed the case. The actual fitting is ratchet based but the adjustment was superb. Couple this with a massively strengthened bass plate bolting to a 9 ply shell supported by excellent spurs and even three mounted Tom-Toms (12", 13", 14") had only natural stress movement which was minimal. Also, all three mounted drums were within easy reach.

Snare Drum

A steel snare drum with a 20 strand snare is fitted as standard, although on the model I tested a 42 strand snare was fitted. Response was good and the Snare (and Tom-Tom) screw on dampers worked well. The snare has a throw off lever and snare adjustment can be done at both ends.

At the lever end, the adjustment was very fine indeed and ought to satisfy the most fastidious of drummers. Each tension rod incorporates a thumb tightened locking screw which Sonor claim will eliminate gradual loosening of tension rods under heavy playing.

Accessories

The Sonor cymbal stands are as big as the really large stands that are now on the market. They have good clamps and tilters and also a top locking nut to the wing-nut. A boom stand is also an available extra.

The bass pedal is adjustable in so many ways that I won't even try to explain, but I believe that it has more adjustment than the American model that is generally used in comparisons of pedals. Three springs of different tension come with it and like the American model, it leaves a plate on the hoop of the Bass drum. It also is a strap action, not linkage. The hi-hat was not quite as heavy duty as the cymbal stand, but well made and none the less adequate. Each tripod leg had the spur/rubber feet and this facility also covered the stands and Bass drum spurs. I do not believe it could creep even under the heaviest foot action. It has double springs, one of which is adjustable. At its slackest setting, it was still slightly too strong for me but to be fair, after the spring has stretched and bedded in, I believe it would probably be acceptable to all drummers. The non-slip foot pad was made of rubber,

but unlike a certain English model which uses "short life glue", this kit had rubber push-in grommets which I expect would hold for ever. Replacement, should the pad wear, would be a simple push-on operation.

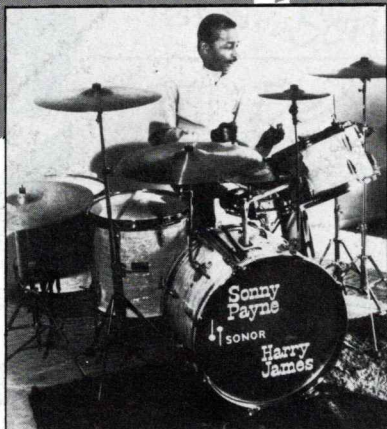
The cymbal clutch was very simple and yet worked very well. The bottom half had a hexagonal hole which fitted to the hexagonal down rod. Obviously, this could not rotate. The top half had the usual wing screw and when this was tightened on to one of the eight sides of the rod, the two halves could not rotate. Consequently, no tightening of the top hi-hat cymbal could occur and so lock nuts are unnecessary.

The snare stand was fully adjustable with a double lever to lock the angle adjustment. It has the modern single adjustment to tighten the cradle, but to lock the cradle it uses a type of hand brake idea. I have used an Italian snare drum stand with a similar hand brake and after three years, I would vouch for this method as being very good indeed. In all a well designed snare stand.

Conclusion

It would appear that with this kit, Sonor have now come into the "Top of the Range" bracket and at this "Top of the Range" price, it must be compared with certain "Prestige" English and American kits. In terms of quality and sound, I expect it to come out more than favourable but strong brand names that have become household words to drummers are very difficult to forget. With this in mind, I understand that Sonor are arranging drum Clinics, so watch out for them in your area.

So, if you do not like to change kits every six months, this particular Sonor kit should last you many years.



Sonny Payne

U.S.A. drum star of Harry James' orchestra and one of America's ranking percussionists, about his Sonor drums. Sonny's remarkable rapport with his instruments is shown in this action picture.



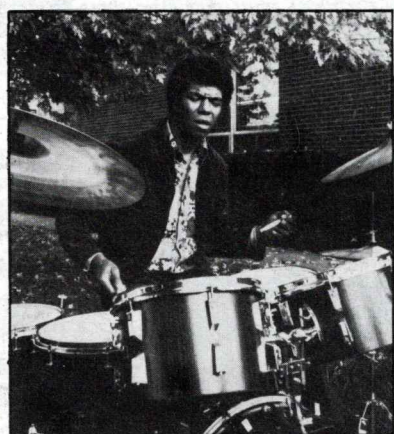
Tommy Aldridge

relies on Sonor drums and accessories for consistent performance in the recording studio and on tour. Listen to Tommy and Black Oak Arkansas, and hear the quality of Sonor drums.



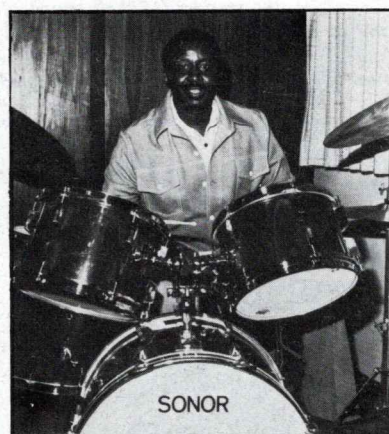
Frank Gant

whose performance with Ahmad Jamal ranks him among outstanding contemporary drummers, insists on Sonor drums and accessories to deliver his unique sounds.



Jack De Johnette

is known to his many fans as "The Wizard" because of the exciting music he creates. His choice of drums is Sonor, an instrument versatile enough to respond perfectly to the vibrant, original sounds. "The Wizard" is famous for.



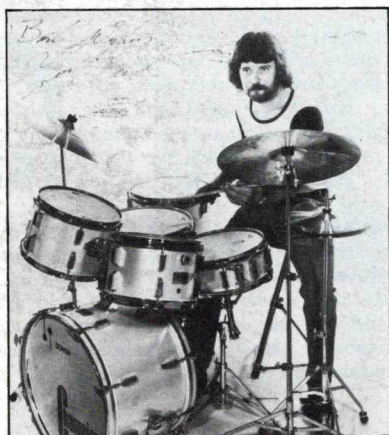
Bernard "Pretty" Purdie

whose featured performance with Aretha Franklin and other stars in person and on records make him one of the most talked-about percussionists of the day, delivers his message on Sonor drums.



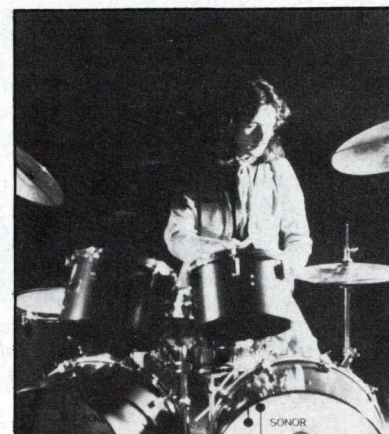
Bobby Gien

Ronnie Scott Band.



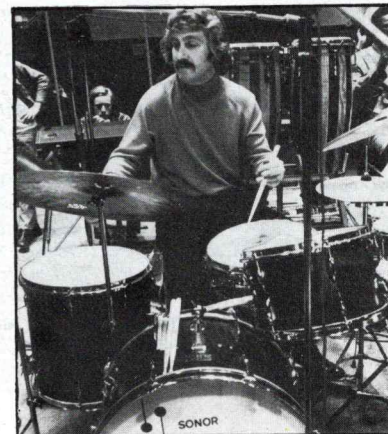
Tony Mann

Humphrey Lytelton Band



Jackie Liebezeit

"The Can"



Ronnie Stephenson

West German Radio/T.V. big band.

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