

GEARING UP

DRUMKIT DETAILS,
ON STAGE AND UP CLOSE



Bon Jovi's TICO TORRES

Interview and photos by Sayre Berman

Drums: Pearl Reference series

- A. 6x14 snare
- B. 9x12 tom
- C. 9x13 tom
- D. 16x16 floor tom
- E. 16x18 floor tom
- F. 18x22 bass drum

"I've been with Pearl for about twenty-five years now," Torres says. "It's great to be with a company that's like a family. They've always made drums for me to my specs. I like to incorporate art into my motif." For this current kit, Torres wanted to go black on black, so he and his drum tech, Joe "JD" Dorosz, special ordered nickel-plated hard-

ware. When the shells were delivered from Japan, they were sent straight to drummer/artist Prairie Prince, who collaborated with Tico on the design. JD assembled the drums with the nickel-plated hardware.

Cymbals: Paiste Signature series in custom finish

- 1. 14" Heavy hi-hats
- 2. 10" splash
- 3. 16" Power crash
- 4. 18" Power crash
- 5. 20" Power crash
- 6. 22" 2002 Power ride
- 7. 20" 2002 China

In keeping with the "subtle flash" look of the drums, Torres wanted something special for his cymbals. "Paiste came up with a translucent black coating for me that doesn't have any adverse effect on the sound," he explains. "They sound as sweet as all the other Paiste products."

"At a glance, they appear black in color," says Paiste marketing manager Andrew Shreve. "But when the stage lights shine on them, you see a beautiful ultra-dark bronze/gold yet translucent-looking cymbal."

Hardware: Pearl drum and cymbal stands, DW 9000 double pedal and 9500 two-leg hi-hat stand, Roc-N-Soc non-hydraulic throne

Heads: Remo Emperor X snare batter and clear Ambassador bottom, coated Emperor tom batters and clear Ambassador bottoms, and coated Powerstroke 3 bass drum batters

Percussion: Latin Percussion Mini Everything Rack, bar chimes, Jam Block with Sliding Bass Drum Percussion Mount, and mountable tambourine with brass jingles

"I have timbales, shakers, and also things that I make in my garage. If I hear something I can use on a record, I try to put something together that will emulate that sound. Sometimes you have to make your own instruments."

Sticks: Ahead

"I still like using wood sticks in the studio because of the way they sound on the cymbals. But for playing this type of hard-hitting rock live, I'm very comfortable with the Ahead sticks. They're made out of aluminum, and they have a plastic tip. The grip is leather wrapped, and I wear gloves when I use them. I no longer have carpal tunnel syndrome. No more pain. These sticks absorb the shock."

