

SNARE DRUM OF THE MONTH

S-Hoops help produce loud rimshots while also protecting the drum's bearing edge from stick damage.

TightScrews fit very firmly into the lug casings, so you can't rely on "feel" to tune the drum. But you also don't have to worry about the drum detuning in the middle of a set.

The super-smooth **Dunnett throw-off arm** rotates 180° for optimum positioning flexibility.

6" depth adds "beef" to this drum's natural high pitch.

The middle strands of the **Fat Cat snares** can be loosened to widen the drum's response while the outside wires keep the sound crisp.

AHEAD 6x13 BLACK ON BRASS

HOW'S IT SOUND?

This is one of the most musical-sounding metal snare drums I've ever played. It's loud enough to cut through just about anything, yet it produces an ear-friendly tone that won't cause your bandmates to twitch in pain with each rimshot. Even at a medium tension—where the batter head felt great to play on—I didn't have to fight to keep the drum from disappearing in a mix of noisy bass and guitar. The drum also sounded awesome tuned way up, where it let out a strong and present "pop." Snare response was very sensitive at all dynamic levels (thanks to the 24-strand Fat Cat snares), and the rotating Dunnett throw-off is one of the finest designs on the market. The drum also came shipped in a high-quality Protection Racket bag that should withstand the abuse of even the most ruthless roadies.

One additional thing worth mentioning: If you play a lot of rimclicks, you may want to opt for one of the 14" drums (6x14 and 4x14 models are available). It was a little difficult to find the sweet spot on this one because of its small diameter and because the S-Hoops extend about 1/2" into the surface of the head.

Michael Dawson

WHAT'S IT COST?

6x13 with Dunnett throw-off\$419.99
 matching Protection Racket case\$49.99
www.bigbangdist.com

To hear this drum, log on to www.moderndrummer.com