

SATURN SERIES

The Mapex Saturn is ideal for any professional studio application and has been extensively tested on tours by Mapex artists for years. Saturn is available in a wide variety of shell packs. A multitude of components can be added to complete any desired set-up. With its unique thin maple and walnut shell, Saturn produces deep, rich tone that thousands of players have chosen to be their drum of choice.



SW504XBN - 10x8, 12x9, 14x14ft, 20x18bd, TH682 Tom Holder Available in GA, SV, TT

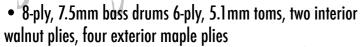
SW524XBN - 10x8, 12x9, 14x14ft, 22x18bd, TH682 Tom Holder Available in GA, KM, KT, SV, TT

SW426XBNK - 12x8, 16x16ft, 22x20bd, AC910 Multi Clamp, TH684S Tom Arm Available in KT, OW, SV

SW406XBNK - 12x8, 16x14ft, 20x20bd, AC910 Multi Clamp, TH684S Tom Arm Available in KT, OW, SV

SW628XBNK - 10x7, 12x8, 14x12ft, 16x14ft, 22x20bd, 2 x AC910 Multi Clamp, 2 x TH684S Tom Arm Available in KT, OW, SV

SWS4550BN - 14x5.5 colour matched snare in GA, KM, KT, OW, SV, TT



- Eight coat, hand applied deep gloss lacquer finish
- Exclusive Isolated Tom Mounting SystemTM on all toms
- Exclusive Isolated Tom Mounting SystemTM on bass drums





KT - CRYSTAL KRUSH



SV- SUPERNOVA



TT - GALAXY BLUE BURST



GA-GALAXY FADE



KM - COSMIC KRUSH



- Spring-loaded floor tom legs
- Low mass, single-point-of-contact lugs
- Low profile, cushioned, die cast bass drum claw hooks
- 2.3mm Steel Mapex Powerhoops
- Remo® Emperor batter heads on all toms, Remo®



SATURN SERIES REVIEW

DESCRIBING THE SATURN AS A STAR IN MAPEX'S FIRMAMENT IS PROBABLY A MIXED METAPHOR TOO FAR. LINGUISTIC ACROBATICS ASIDE, THE SERIES HAS BEEN A HIGHLIGHT OF THE MAPEX LINE-UP FOR A GOOD WHILE NOW - A GREAT CHOICE FOR SERIOUS PLAYERS WHOSE TASTES HAVE BEEN REFINED TO APPRECIATE THE FINER POINTS OF DRUM DESIGN.

Words by Jordan McLachlan

And the new incarnation of the Saturn appears to keep the flag flying high. It all starts with thin (at 5.1mm) shells of six-plies of a North American maple/walnut mix - a combination designed to offer a best of both worlds itself, thanks to an equally dominating tone. The focus of walnut combined with the warmth of maple should be a winning combo. And it proves to be just by a deliciously throaty roar; the that.

The Saturn is a truly impressive sounding kit that holds its own with anything else in the price bracket. The whole kit sounds ace, but it's particularly difficult not to fall for the toms immediately - love at first stroke, if you like. There's a gorgeous, Don't let the excited babble about toms fat, 'squashy' response to the rack toms that is the product of a plummy, supportive mid-range. This sits just under a nicely developed, articulate top-end that imbues the toms with enough cut to sit in a mix but never becomes clattery. And boy are they loud. The Saturn is a stadium-sized kit explosive, fat backbeat. An awesomely in terms of volume, and one of those set-ups whose tone seems to come from something rather bigger than

the shells that make up the kit. It's hard to believe that a 12" tom and 14" snare, for example, contain such big-hearted sounds.

The bass drum gives great account of voice. The 18" depth serves up floorshaking bass, and this is complemented benefits of that blend of maple and walnut are nowhere more apparent than here. Design and construction details are plenty on the bass drum too. Smooth tuning rods with recessed heads, an isolation bridge for the legs and matching all-maple hoops are all part of the package.

and kick drum fool you into thinking that the snare is anything but stellar too. It doesn't matter in which order you come to this kit, every element of the Saturn is a superb performer. The snare is warm and expansive with a biting top-end, floating on an good rock snare, the drum is also responsive right to the extremities of the head, so deft funk 'in-between'

strokes are easy to come by. Mapex, thanks to its Black Panthers, has long had a reputation for great snare drums - this one doesn't let the family down.

Moving up to a kit like the Saturn brings all sorts of benefits and it immediately feels like a kit for the most demanding of situations. Real life working situations - whether on stage or in the studio - would all be well-served by the Saturn and its endlessly inspiring sonic palette. Truly a kit with which to enjoy a long and meaningful relationship.



MERIDIAN MAPLE SERIES

New for 2009, the Mapex Meridian Maple ushers in a new level of quality and functionality in mid-level all maple drum sets. With a completely new lug and redesigned lightweight Isolated Tom Mounting System, the Meridian Series features bright and resonant all maple shells in a wide selection of lacquered and covered finishes. Each Meridian drum set is also equipped with all new, feature-packed Mapex 700 Series hardware.

- Spring-cushioned floor tom legs
- Eight coat, hand-sanded, high gloss lacquer finish
- Redesigned Bass drum tom mount with a built-in adapter for optional boom arm

• 7-ply all maple, 5.8mm toms and snares, 7.2mm bass drum

• 2.3mm Mapex Powerhoops



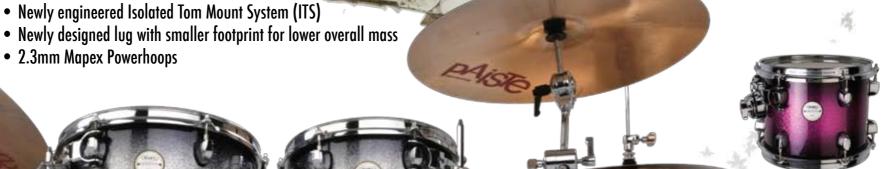
MP5045 - 10x8, 12x9, 14x14ft, 20x18bd, 14x5.5, B700, C700, H700, P700, S700, TH676 Available in TG, TH, TJ, TX

MP5245 - 10x8, 12x9, 14x14ft, 22x18bd, 14x5.5, B700, C700, H700, P700, S700, TH676 Available in TG, TH, TJ, TX

MP5255 - 12x9, 13x10, 16x16ft, 22x18bd, 14x5.5, B700, C700, H700, P700, S700, TH676 Available in TG, TH, TJ, TX

*MP6285FK - 10X7, 12x8, 14x12ft, 16X14ft, 22x18, 14x5.5, B700x2, H700, P700, S700, AC901x2, TH684S x2 Available in TG, TH, TJ, TX

*New 22x20 configuration available January 2010



TH - ELECTRIC BERRY BURST







TJ - GALAXY BURST





- Low-profile, recessed bass drum claws with cushioning gasket
- All maple snare drum
- Remo® UT Pinstripe heads



• Meridian drum sets come with an instructional DVD that will help you start enjoying your drums the day you get them home.

THE UK'S BEST-SELLING DRUM MAGAZINE

MERIDIAN MAPLE REVIEW

LAUNCHED AT THE 2009 NAMM SHOW, THE MERIDIAN SERIES REPLACES TWO PREVIOUS MAPEX RANGES, PRO M AND M BIRCH. AS SUCH. THE MERIDIAN SERIES IS SPLIT INTO A SELECTION OF ALL-MAPLE AND ALL-BIRCH KITS. BUT THIS IS FAR MORE THAN JUST A RE-BADGING EXERCISE, WITH PLENTY OF NEW FEATURES AND DESIGNS INCORPORATED INTO THE DRUMS.

Words by Adam Jones

of four options currently available and, along with three of the four choices, is a five-piece set up. It is comprised of a 22"x18" bass drum. 14"x5 1/2" snare, 10"x8" and 12"x9" rack toms and a 14"x14" floor tom. All mounting towards a flatter area of head. hardware is included along with a 700 series hardware pack, which features a snare stand, hi-hat stand, a boom cymbal stand and also includes a bass drum pedal.

There are immediate visual differences A total of six high-gloss lacquer to the drums that distinguish them from the old Pro M series. Easiest to spot are the new lugs which have been The Root Beer Burst that the review the shell.

has been remodelled to something more along the lines of a curved. bullet-style lug. Each lug is attached to the shell by a single screw and metal-on-wood contact is prevented by the provision of moulded rubber grommets. These new lugs feature exclusively on the Meridian Series. The shells themselves are, in the main, unchanged from those found on the previous Pro M series, with one critical difference: an additional back cut has been applied to the

The supplied Meridian maple kit is one bearing edges in order to create more contact surface between the head and shell. The angle of the bearing edges remains the same at 4 degrees; the effect of the back cut is to move the bearing edge fractionally inwards The shells are all 100 percent maple and share a seven-ply construction, with toms and snare drums coming in at 5.8mm thick, while bass drums are a fatter 7.2mm.

Meridian finishes are offered in the UK, with most of them being sparkles. designed to have a smaller footprint on kit wears glitters away in the shadows A gigantic double bass drum set is and virtually erupts when put under The familiar Mapex oval-shaped design lights. If the half dozen options aren't tempting enough, further finishes are available through special order. Mapex reckons that the ITS is a less intrusive method of mounting toms, claiming that as it attaches to the lugs it can only maximise shell resonance. It's certainly a sleek-looking piece of hardware that, unlike some alternatives, doesn't add a great deal of bulk or weight to the drum. While the toms might have new

mounts to hang from, the floor

toms are far from overlooked as

they are now equipped with innovative spring-loaded legs. These work exactly as you would expect, a spring is located between the end of the lea and the rubber foot, allowing almost a centimetre of vertical cushioning movement.

'We at Mapex are confident that our Meridian Maple range can out perform anything in its price bracket. Over the summer this kit has appeared at just about every major UK Music Festival as the main kit on the Jagermeister tour buses. currently on the road with the new stage version of Pete Townsends musical 'Quadrophenia', and it has featured heavily at the Bath Rythm Week and Freddie G Academy residential drum courses. Why not get down to your local Mapex dealer and check the range out for yourselves, we're sure you'll be impressed'



MERIDIAN BIRCH SERIES

Like its Maple counterpart, the all new Meridian Birch employs the same lightweight and ergonomic Isolated Tom Mounting System for maximum resonance and sustain. The Meridian's thin birch shells offer plenty of attack and remarkable tone. To make sure you're ready to play as soon as possible, Meridian Birch drums sets come with all-new, feature-rich Mapex 700 Series hardware.



UK CONFIGURATIONS & COLOURS

• Meridian drum sets come with an instructional DVD that will help you start enjoying your drums the day you get them home.

Available in LE, LU, MB

MR5045 - 10x8, 12x9, 14x14ft, 20x18bd, 14x5.5, B700, C700, H700, P700, S700, T350A, TH676



MERIDIAN BIRCH REVIEW

THE NEW MERIDIAN BIRCH IS SOMETHING OF A STANDARD-SETTER FOR MODERN KITS AT THIS PRICE. PERFECTLY CONCEIVED AS A HARD-GIGGING OR RECORDING WORKHORSE, IT DELIVERS IN FAR MORE STYLE THAN WE WOULD HAVE HOPED FOR EVEN A FEW YEARS AGO.

Words by Jordan McLachlan

For starters, it looks great, with an eight-coat hand-rubbed lacquer finish setting off the range colour options beautifully; the new low mass lugs are welcome too, with a smaller footprint for less tonal interruption and sleeker aesthetics.

Where the toms are concerned. Mapex's ITS isolation system has been newly engineered, remaining an elegant affair that ensures a noticeable Meridian is of a forceful, strident voice purity of tone from the drums. And the that will suit any high-energy genre attention to details extends to the bass drum too, with recessed claws (fitted with cushioning gasket to eliminate rattles) adding a sleek, sophisticated

for show though. The way the Meridian adds a very pleasing extra depth and fits together and the refined feel of tuning rods, memory locks etc adds a very polished air to the kit as a whole. comes with the Meridian shells is Such things bode well for longevity, add confidence and make a long-term relationship with a drum kit a real pleasure.

Despite all this goodness, it's from under the skin that the Meridian's real magic comes however. The 6-ply, all birch shells deliver their characteristic bark with aplomb -

there's a usefully punchy mid-range from all the drums in the set, with the snare a particularly muscular performer. But this translates to clarity and controllability rather than a nasal 'honk'. And the 18" depth of the bass drum allows for an upper-mid cut balanced with enough depth to underpin the sound of the ensemble

The lasting sonic impression of the down-to-the-ground. The speed at which the drums come to life at each stroke also adds a lively edge to the tone of the kit. But the shells are of such quality that it's easy to tune the None of these physical niceties are just set-up to taste - slackening tension warmth to any of the drums in the kit. The 700 Series hardware pack that fabulously good too, matching the high-performing shells nicely. It's real road-worthy stuff, double-braced and likely to last as long as your playing career with the minimum of fuss. Ratchet-tilters and memory locks everywhere you might need them means that rigging the Meridian is super quick and, more

importantly, repeatable. And nothing's going to move on stage, no matter how frenzied the set gets. Again, there are loads of sweet little touches here - a triple faced kick drum beater and new bass drum tom mount with built-in adaptor for a cymbal boom arm are just a couple of faves.

There's an awful lot to like about the Meridian. As stylish and characterful as kits with considerably bigger price tags, it's a great first 'serious' kit and one that will work as hard as you do as your playing develops.



VXB SERIES

THE VXB HYBRID SHELL SERIES

INTRODUCING The Brand New VXB series, featuring a Birch/Basswood shell construction and a range of stunning transparent lacquer finishes. The VXB series includes two B323 - three stage boom stands and a FREE bonus tom, packaged with the kit pack throughout 2009



UK CONFIGURATIONS & COLOURS



VXB SERIES REVIEW

QUITE HOW MAPEX MANAGES TO BRING A SIX-PIECE KIT TO MARKET AT THE PRICE OF THE NEW VXB ISN'T EASY TO FATHOM.

Words by Jordan McLachlan

The company has offered free 8" or 10" toms with its affordable sets to avoid flexing and thus soaking up. Toms are crystal clear, from top to for a while – in the process winning sonic energy from the shells. Mapex bottom here. There's not a hint of hordes of fans over not only by the extra flexibility but by the sheer performance on offer. Wallet-friendly the VXB might be, but it also offers a remarkably polished aural experience. There's nothing unnecessarily complicated where the new VXB is concerned. All the development resources have gone into helping the kit punch above its weight, but that's not to say it's any Plain Jane. The translucent lacquer finish stand is unfussy but offers all the is mirror-smooth and there's a cleanliness to the kit's appearance your ideal feel, and it's a smooth vibe.

At the heart of the VXB lie 9-ply birch/basswood hybrid shells tough enough to stand up to a lifetime in and out of a van, but also thin enough, at 7.2mm, to allow for decent resonance. Two other factors playing a part in this aspect of the kit's make-up are the ITS tom mounts and 2.3mm Mapex Powerhoops; the triple-flanged

hoops are noticeably rigid enough has also seen fit to equip the VXB with tubbiness to be found anywhere, usefully low-mass luas and kit out the bass drum with colour-matched bass drum hoops.

Price, it seems, has been no barrier to an eye for detail.

A selection of impressive-looking metalwork comes with the kit too. A real leap forward from entry-level stands, the 323 Series is doublebraced and resolutely sturdy - a pleasure to use, in fact. The hi-hat necessary tweakability to dial in that lends it a discernibly grown-up operator so control over your hats is as precise as your left foot. On digging in to the VXB, the snare immediately distinguishes itself with a bright, crisp retort that boasts bags of high-end energy. It's a very snappy, lively response that means ghost-notes are easy to coax when the going gets funky. Dead centre backbeats yield sufficient lower-midrange to support the crack of the head though; this is a mix-slicing little

number to be sure.

so fills punctuate beats without getting in the way of the groove. There's a sweet edge to the drums though, particularly where the larger toms are concerned. And the degree to which the 14" can be tuned low without 'clogging up' with muddy low-end is really impressive.

The trend continues with the kick drum. There's a spike in the upper-midrange that gives the VXB's bass an aggressive edge, tempered with plenty of depth and just enough sustain to deliver a solid foundation for the rest of the set-up. Articulate, clear of voice, very nicely crafted - the bass drum sums up the VXB character succinctly.

OR SERIES

If you're in search of a terrific first drum set or a solid second set for weekend gigs, the QR Series is the kit you need.

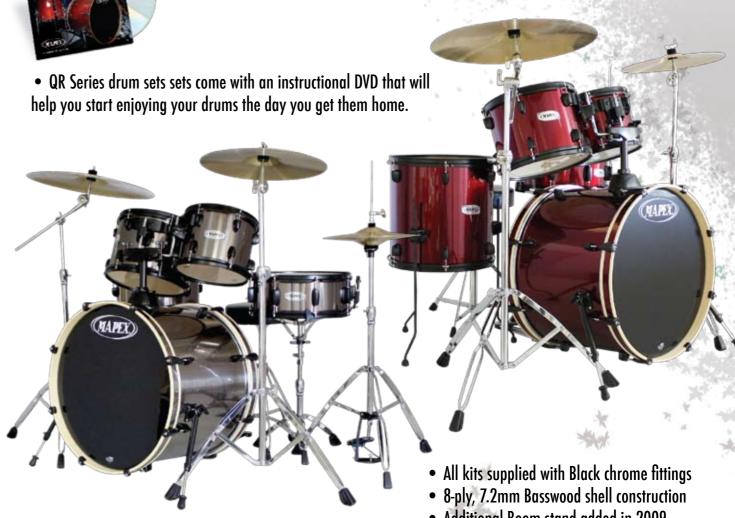
Genuine basswood shells provide rich, deep tone and the QR Series' features rival those found on far more expensive drum sets. In Autumn 2009, the QR series is shipped compete with full Black hardware and a Mapex branded, three piece cymbal set consisting of 14" Hi Hats, a 16" Crash & a 20" Ride!

UK CONFIGURATIONS & COLOURS

QR5045TBCZ - 10x8, 12x9, 14x14ft, 20x18bd, 14x5.5, B323x2, H320, P320, S320, T250A Available in BL, BY, GT

QR5245TBCZ - 10x8, 12x9, 14x14ft, 22x18bd, 14x5.5, B323x2, H320, P320, S320, T250A Available in BL, BY, GT

QR5255TBCZ - 12x9, 13x10, 16x16ft, 22x18bd, 14x5.5, B323x2, H320, P320, S320, T250A Available in BL. BY. GT



- Additional Boom stand added in 2009
- high-quality, durable wrap finishes
- matching wrap insert, wooden bass drums hoops

TORNADO 2

Tornado kits are manufactured exclusively in Mapex's own wholly-owned manufacturing facility, which also builds our complete high-end drum ranges. Our factory was recently awarded the ISO9001 certified standards award, the worldwide benchmark for manufacturing excellence. Tornado drum shells are made from genuine basswood and the kit features double braced hardware. All Tornado kits also include colur matched wood snare drums and are shipped with 14" hi Hats and 18" ride cymbals. Tornado is supplied in durable, high quality Black and Burgandy wrap finishes.

UK CONFIGURATIONS

TN5254MTCBL-UK - 12x9, 13x10, 16x16ft, 22x16bd, 14x5.5, C200, H200, P200, S200, T250A in BLACK TN5254MTCBY-UK - 12x9, 13x10, 16x16ft, 22x16bd, 14x5.5, C200, H200, P200, S200, T250A in BURGUNDY TN5044MTCBL-UK - 10x8, 12x19, 14x14ft, 20x16bd, 14x5.5, C200, H200, P200, S200, T250A in BLACK TN5044MTCBY-UK - 10x8, 12x19, 14x14ft, 20x16bd, 14x5.5, C200, H200, P200, S200, T250A in BURGUNDY



THE UK'S BEST-SELLING DRUM MAGAZINE

TORNADO 2 REVIEW

THE REAL ENTRY-LEVEL END OF THE DRUM MARKET IS FRAUGHT WITH PITFALLS FOR INEXPERIENCED BUYERS. IT'S ALL TOO EASY, AND UNDERSTANDABLE, FOR BUDDING YOUNG DRUMMERS TO GET BLINDED BY SHINY SHELLS AND SPARKLING CHROME AND MAKE LESS-THAN-PERFECT PURCHASE DECISIONS.

Words by Jordan McLachlan

The new Tornado from Mapex goes a long way to avoiding first-kit frustrations though. With back-up from a proper brand that's often missing in the sub-£300 bracket, the Tornado feels more like a real drum kit than many of its competitors, and is consequently rather more rewarding to sit behind.

The kit sticks wisely to a tried and

tested formula - everything you need to get started in an easy to understand package. For your £299 you get a five-piece kit, two-piece cymbal set and hardware; the shell pack consists of a 'do-it-all' 22"x16" bass drum, 12"x9", 13"x10" and 16"x16" toms and 14"x 5 ½" snare. Of course, a fully-featured starter package means little if it's a pig to assemble. Happily, the Tornado goes together gratifyingly well and feels miles away from the wobbly,

uninspiring contraptions of old. The

hardware pack is more than up to the are keen to keep these 'for best'. task of seeing you through your first steps (and perhaps even beyond), with elements like the sturdy ball-clamp tom holders a notably welcome inclusion.

The sound of the Tornado will find easy favour with players too. It's an excitable, fruity set-up, with each drum possessing an energetic tonal edge without being harsh. As expected, lively mid and high-end frequencies characterise the Tornado. but there's enough smoothness to take the edge off each retort and ensure that things stay more than listenable. There's certainly enough evidence to suggest that the Tornado's shells will lend themselves to upgraded heads in the future, allowing for a tonal upgrade and tailoring to taste. As such, the kit would make an ideal practice/ rehearsal kit for players with posher set-ups for gigs and recordings who

Affordable but more accomplished than you might expect, the Tornado's could prove a useful ally for drummers at various stages of their career. And if it's your first kit, it'll be the most exciting you ever buy...



BLACK PANTHER

BLACK PANTHER, now one of the world's most renownd snare drum ranges, continues to grow and develop with vigour and ferocity. Each Black Panther now comes equipped with a Deluxe Mapex branded carry case

DEEP FOREST WALNUT

Shell Thickness: 8.5mm Shell Finish: Brown Sugar Burst Die Cast Hoops Black Chrome

BPWT4650TBW-B 14x6.5 42-strand **BPWT4550TBW-B** 14x5.5



BIRDSEYE MAPLE

Shell Thickness: 6.45mm Die Cast Hoops Black Chrome 20-strand

BPBE4650FB-B 14x6.5 **BPBE4550FB-B** 14x5.5



DEEP FOREST CHERRY

Shell Thickness: 5.1mm Wax Natural Die Cast Hoops Hoop Finish: 24K Gold Plated 20-strand

BPCW4550WN 14x5.5



TRADITIONAL MAPLE

Shell Thickness: 5.1mm Transparent Gloss Black Shell Finish: Die Cast Hoops Black Chrome Hoop Finish: 20-strand

BPML4650BTB 14x6.5 **BPML4550BTB** 14x5.5 **BPML3600BTB** 13x6



STAINLESS STEEL

Shell Thickness: 1.0mm Snare:20-strand 2.3mm Powerhoops

BPST4651A-B 14x6.5 BPST4551A-B 14x5.5



HAMMERED BRASS

Shell Thickness: 1.2mm Black Plated Brass Shell Finish: Die Cast Hoons Black Chrome



14x6.5

LIMITED EDITION THE MEMPHIS



Shell material: Maple Walnut Maple Hybrid Shell Thickness: 6.1 mm all Maple Ring Thickness: 3.4 mm all Walnut Shell Finish: Die Cast Hoop

20-strand

Shell material: Maple Shell Thickness: 12mm 14 x 6 Hoop Finish:



THICK MAPLE SHELL



CHRIS ADLER SIGNATURE - LIMITED EDITION RUN ENDS DEC 2009!



Shell material: Walnut Shell Thickness: 5.1mm

Chris Adler-Inspired Artwork With High Gloss Lacquer Finish Shell Finish:

MPX SNARES - VALUE MADE LOUD & CLEAR



STEEL MPST0554 10x5.5 MPST4550 14x5.5





NATURAL MAPLE MPML3600CNL 13x6 MPML4550CNL 14x5.5



MAPEX UK DISTRIBUTION
KORG UK LTD
9 Newmarket Court
Kingston
Milton Keynes
MK10 OAU

