



BEATER

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Z-LINK

Double pedals attach via a zero-latency aluminium drive shaft with smooth gyroscopic joints

FOOTPLATE

Duo-Deck footplate allows it to be used as either a 'short' or extended pedal



PEARL DEMON CHAIN DRIVE PEDALS

From £305 Pearl's new Eliminator Demon pedal now comes with a chain drive

WORDS: DAVE HOLMES

When the original Demon Drive made its debut at NAMM 2009, its ground-breaking features had it voted 'Best in Show'. What made this show-stopper so radical wasn't necessarily down to its direct linkage drive, or the fact that it was indeed wickedly fast and (with the assistance of NiNjA skateboard bearings) smoother than eels in a bucket of silicone - it was (and still is), a piece of engineering brilliance which awards the pedals their immense versatility.

Build

Instead of the direct drive, these new models sport a more conventional chain drive system consisting of a 'perfect circle' linear response cam (inspired by motor racing), and a dual chain, complete with NiNjA rollers. The modular construction starts with a steel baseplate on which the various cast aluminium components attach with Allen bolts. Beaters feature an internal 'elastocore' which acts as a form of shock absorber. Pearl

has retained all of the features which makes the pedals so unique - the 'Duo-deck' footplate allows it to be used either as a standard 'short' pedal or extended, giving extra power but with less control. The beater stroke can also be positioned further away from the batter head or closer to it - again a compromise of power over controllability.

The double pedals attach to each other via the zero latency 'Z-link' (also inspired by motor racing) aluminium drive-shaft with its smooth gyroscopic joints. The pedals' modular construction allows the double to be converted into a right-hand remote - giving lefties the chance to enjoy the pedal too! It is interesting to note, if initially purchasing a single pedal (but later deciding to go for a double), the single can be easily converted into a double with the optional components available from Pearl.

Hands On

Within a second or two of performing with the pedals (double and single), it became clear I previously must have been playing in some

stodgy treacle, with my old pedals holding me back. To check whether I would experience the same type of feel on the double, this was given some additional testing where I played the left remote with my right foot and managed equally impressive results.

After playing for a short while (back in my usual seated position!), things felt so comfortable that I had to remind myself I was playing on some new models with frequent 'did I just play that?' moments. **R**

VERDICT: The speed at which these pedals interpret each step is incredibly smooth, fast and accurate. Although I had previously played with the direct-link Demon a year or so ago, to me, the 'chain' seems to give a slightly more organic feel - a little less like attempting to connect to a machine. **Impressive!**

BUILD QUALITY	★★★★★
PLAYABILITY	★★★★★
VALUE FOR MONEY	★★★★★
RHYTHM RATING	★★★★★

Essential spec



PRICE

Single Demon pedal, £305; Double Demon pedal, £770

DRIVE

Chain - dual linkage

BEATER

Control core, compressed felt

BASE PLATE

Steel

FEATURES

Duo-deck convertible footplate, modular design, beater stroke adjustment, NiNjA bearings, 'linear response' cam, ultra-light chain, Z-link drive shaft (Double only), click lock spring, removable toe stop, height adjustable footboard, adjustable traction plate

CONTACT

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