

# DW 6000 SERIES ULTRALIGHT HARDWARE

**From £79** *If it's seriously lightweight stands you crave, look no further. These are way the lightest in mainstream production*

WORDS: GEOFF NICHOLLS

**B**efore rock went heavy in the 1960s, flat-based fold-out leg stands were a familiar sight. By the late 1960s, however, rock drummers were finding these stands too flimsy. Double-braced boom stands came along and since then hardware has gone gargantuan. The inevitable backlash has seen gigging drummers look for quality hardware that doesn't induce a hernia.

Most companies do a single-braced lightweight tripod range, but in recent years there has been a surprise return to flat-based stands with a newly-cool vintage look. First DW came up with its 6000 Series Light hardware, and now we have the 6000 Series Ultralight hardware.

### Build

DW has achieved the Ultra-Light goal by employing aluminium instead of steel for the legs. Additionally, everything that can be has been reduced or miniaturised – the tubing, section housings and tiny memory locks on the hi-hat and snare stand. Yet it all feels strong and built to last. The result is genuinely impressive. You can literally pick up these stands in the crook of your little finger. The snare stand, for example, weighs just over a kilogram, the equivalent of a bag of sugar! The hi-hat stand has a smooth, twin-chain off-set direct-pull action and the familiar DW split-heel footboard. DW is marketing a set of four stands (snare, hi-hat and two straight cymbal stands) in a special mini carrying bag.

### Hands On

DW has packed the stands with useful and functional design flourishes. The snare

### Also try...



#### 1 GIBRALTAR 8000 SERIES FLAT- BASED HARDWARE

**We say:** "Independent hardware company Gibraltar offers a keenly priced flat-based stand series that, like DW's, is packed with smart design ideas."



#### 2 PEARL 150 SERIES FLAT- BASED HARDWARE

**We say:** "Pearl enters the competition with typically well-engineered flat based stands. Steel legs make the set heavier than DW's, but correspondingly more stable."



basket is sprung so that it holds the snare lightly, the rubber arm grips carefully designed to minimise constriction. The aluminium base has a small footprint with 8" (20cm) legs, which is fine for light playing situations. The basket has continuous angle adjustment (not geared), which is to my mind an essential of any snare drum stand. At its lowest your snare bottom will be 16"

(41cm) from the floor. There is also a memory lock for fixing the height.

Along with the flat base, the support arms are the fold-out-flat type also. Anyone who started out with a 1960s flat-arm stand – Premier or Olympic for example – will remember that under hard playing the arms eventually start to bend down so that the centre of the stand pushes through

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### ULTRALIGHT HI-HAT

*Stands are further lightened by the reduced diameter  $\frac{3}{4}$ " lower tubes and  $\frac{5}{8}$ " upper tubes*

### SMOOTH ACTION

*The hi-hat stand has twin-chain direct-pull action and the familiar cast DW split-heel footboard*

### LIGHT AS A FEATHER

*For anyone undertaking light gigs these cleverly designed stands are a dream*

### FLAT BASES

*Stands have the vintage flat-based look, but can also be lifted into a tripod so that adjoining stands can overlap if necessary*

### Essential spec



#### PRICES

6560UL hi-hat stand, £129;  
6710UL straight cymbal stand, £79;  
6300UL snare stand, £115;  
Hardware pack (hi-hat, 2 x cymbal stands, snare stand) with bag, £383

#### FEATURES

Aluminium flush-based low-profile legs; gearless snare and Glide-Tilter cymbal tilters; miniaturised clamps and memory locks; offset direct dual chain-pull action hi-hat with adjustable spring tension; snare basket spring adjustment; tubing gauges:  $\frac{3}{4}$ " base tubes,  $\frac{5}{8}$ " upper tubes; Hardware bag size: 29"x12"x10"

#### WEIGHTS

Hi-hat, 5.07lbs (2.3 kg); snare stand, 2.54lbs (1.15 kg); cymbal stand, 2.76lbs (1.25kg); pack, 18.19lbs (8.25kg)

#### IDEAL FOR

All styles where light playing is normal

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your bottom snare drum head. It's a big reason why tripod angled-up arms are standard today. DW has addressed this by designing the rubber grippers to elevate your snare way clear of the steel arms. And I'm sure DW uses decent steel. So long as you don't play heavy it shouldn't become a problem.

The base of the hi-hat has rather longer legs at 28cm (11") and they are fitted with squared rubber feet that include screw-down spikes/spurs. The Velcro underneath the familiar solid heel-plate also prevents wandering. But still the hi-hat can rock a little under vigorous playing. This was always the problem with flat-based hi-hat stands and DW has not entirely solved it.

The cymbal stands have similar 11" legs to the hi-hat. All the base legs can be elevated to form low tripods which enable you to overlap

stands where the need arises. The legs fold up like an old-style music stand, so they are also exceptionally compact for transporting. The cymbal stand also has a gearless Glide-Tilter, which is tiny but effective, aided by the secure-feeling wing screw.

I used the stands on several folk gigs this past summer and loved them, but you do have to proceed carefully. They are strong, but because they are so light the cymbal and snare stands will topple if you get too carried away. You don't sit there worrying about it since, as you expect from DW, they are generally reliable. But you can't mount an assault with too big or heavy a cymbal or snare. Tellingly, there is no boom cymbal stand (which there was in the standard 6000 series), as it would certainly be precarious unless the legs were greatly extended.

To repeat, the stands are so light that the above limitations are inevitable and are the price you pay for such a massive reduction in weight. To state the obvious, there's no way aluminium legs can have the grounded stability of weighty steel. But swap to these in your hardware bag and carrying really does become child's play. **R**

**VERDICT:** When DW says Ultra-Lightweight they are not kidding. Because of the aluminium legs and miniaturised components they are much lighter than anyone else's, if less stable as an inevitable consequence.

BUILD QUALITY



PLAYABILITY



VALUE FOR MONEY



RHYTHM RATING

