

PEARL 150 SERIES LIGHTWEIGHT HARDWARE



From £76 Pearl enters the trendy flat-based stand market with this typically well-designed set

WORDS: GEOFF NICHOLLS

Flat based hardware is all the rage. We've recently reviewed both Ludwig's Atlas Classic and DW's 6000 Series Ultralight. Gibraltar also does its 8000 line, Tama has dabbled, and Pearl offers this 150 series. All these companies start from stylistic throw-backs to the 1960s then add the benefits of modern features and sturdy build.

As with the other sets, Pearl offers a snare and hi-hat stand with straight and boom cymbal stands. And they are available solo or as a quartet.

Build

Each company making flat-based stands has its unique design features and Pearl's trump card, if you'll pardon the word, is the fact its snare and cymbal stand bases are reversible.

The flat bases are single struts of steel with good sized rubber feet. They are braced by smaller struts and locked by a comfortable wing screw. But at the bottom of the stand tube there's a drum key nut and by loosening this, the whole tripod assembly can be slid off, inverted and slipped back on - transformed into a single-braced conventional tripod stand.

You could argue that this defeats the idea of having flat-based stands, but then there may be situations where you need a bit of extra stability or space and the option is there. Note also that other manufacturers' flat-based stands can at least be lifted enough to form low tripods where overlapping is desirable.

Incidentally, Pearl's 150 hi-hat does not have the reversible tripod - it's impossible due to the pull mechanism, which has a direct action via a heavy chain, offset from the lower stand tube.

Hands On

The snare stand basket is a strongly braced three-arm design with decent grippers and has Pearl's gearless Uni-Lock tilter for smooth and accurate angle adjustment. The large plastic wheel thumb screw for the basket almost collides with the large thumb

REVERSIBLE LEGS

The flat bases of snare and cymbal stands can be removed and upturned to form conventional tripods

Also try...



1

LUDWIG ATLAS CLASSIC SERIES

We say: "The Atlas Classic series is practical, stylish and boasts many clever and genuinely useful design details."



2

DW 6000 ULTRALIGHT SERIES

We say: "Aluminium legs and tiny fittings make DW's way the lightest out there, but at the same time inevitably compromise stability."

screw for the tilter, but it's a minor inconvenience given the flexibility offered.

The straight cymbal stand has three sections with a low bottom section (42cm/16½") - useful when you want to set a cymbal relatively low down, as opposed to the boom stand which has a relatively higher bottom section at (53cm/21"). The boom arm is the usual hideaway type so you can convert

from straight to boom as you see fit.

Cymbal angle is controlled by Pearl's gearless Uni-Lock tilter which is smooth and firm and the capping wing screw is a large plastic moulding. Beneath this there is a minimum-contact cup support topped with reversible half-foam-half-felt washers. Cymbals are thus cushioned lovingly and lightly. The hi-hat is the bulkiest item, and

THE WHOLE TRIPOD ASSEMBLY CAN BE SLID OFF, INVERTED AND SLIPPED BACK ON - TRANSFORMED INTO A SINGLE-BRACED CONVENTIONAL TRIPOD STAND



GEARLESS TILTERS

Pearl's smooth working Uni-Lock tilters make it easy to achieve your exact cymbal angles and securely lock them in place

SWIVEL HI-HAT

The hi-hat's footboard can be swivelled around to allow for positioning of a second bass drum (or other) pedal

TRACTION PLATE

Pearl's new Redline hi-hat footboard has a reversible Traction Plate insert which offers alternative grip feel to suit your playing

feels reassuringly solid. A heavy-duty chain action has a plastic wheel spring tension adjuster for feel, while the footboard is fitted with Pearl's new Redline Traction Plate. This is an oval insert plate that is removable by undoing four Allen key grub-screws and can be upturned to have the smooth section higher or lower on the footboard. A small thing, but if you're a toe slider or barefoot player then you might appreciate this flexibility.

Flat-based hi-hats have a tendency to rock but Pearl has pretty much eliminated this via the weight of the pedal and the strength and length (30cm/1ft) of the steel legs. A memory lock at the tripod base further secures the whole shebang. And although the tripod doesn't invert like on the other stands, the

footplate can be swivelled around and locked in place to allow for double pedal (or other pedal) positioning.

There are no memory locks at stand section housings but I didn't miss them - they are not really needed and would only add to the weight.

In terms of weight, the hi-hat is the heaviest at 6.3lbs (2.8kg), the straight cymbal stand the lightest at 4.8lbs (2.18kg). The equivalent DW 6000 Ultralight hi-hat is almost as heavy at 5.07lbs (2.3kg), but DW's straight cymbal stand is roughly half the Pearl weight at 2.54lbs (1.15kg). This is because the DW stands are considerably slighter in overall build and have aluminium legs. As a result they are surprisingly light, but correspondingly less stable. I've heard

drummers claim to use them for heavy playing but I did not find this (see *Rhythm* 263). They are great for light playing though, whereas Pearl, Ludwig and Gibraltar's stands will weather forceful rocking. Horses for courses. **R**

VERDICT: Pearl's retro-styled flat-based stands are relatively lightweight, but typically sturdy and stable. They have loads of great features including reversible tripod bases and Uni-Lock gearless tilters.

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

Essential spec

Pearl

PRICE

Cymbal stand: £76;
 Boom cymbal stand:
 £80;
 Hi-hat: £140;
 Snare drum stand: £76

WEIGHT

Hi-hat: 6.3lbs (2.95kg);
 Snare stand: 5.18lbs
 (2.35kg);
 Straight cymbal stand:
 4.8lbs (2.18kg);
 Boom cymbal stand:
 5.42lbs (2.46kg)

SPECIAL FEATURES

Lightweight vintage design updated to modern era; convertible flat-braced or tripod leg bases; Uni-Lock gearless tilters; swivel function hi-hat footboard; hi-hat Redline traction plate footboard; Cymbal stands: plastic wingnuts, reversible foam-felt washers

IDEAL FOR

All styles where playing does not get too heavy

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