



TRX Icon series cymbals

New range of handmade cymbals from the 'Young Turks'

Words: Nick Carter Images: Eckie

HEADS UP
TRX ICON SERIES CYMBALS

Prices:

21" Ride	£385
20" Heavy Crash	£345
18" Thin Crash	£289
14" Hi-Hats	£425
9" Splash	£144

▲ UPBEATS:

- Musical nature of all cymbals in this range
- Dark, complex, shimmering overtones throughout
- Versatility of 14" hats

▼ DOWNBEATS:

- None

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Genuine handmade Turkish cymbals – this was the first thing that I noted when starting to review this impressively shiny range of instruments from this relatively new name associated with the fine art of cymbal smithery. The Icon range on offer here are all fully handmade, featuring what the company refer to as a 'B20+' bronze formula along with traditional hand-lathing, all buffed to a mirror-like brilliant glossy finish. These cymbals certainly look the part. Sound-wise, the company's marketing states that the aim of these cymbals is to "combine the rich, warm tone of vintage cymbals with the brighter, more powerful performance characteristics required by modern

"CRASHING THIS MAGNIFICENT INSTRUMENT GIVES A DEEP, DARK EXPLOSION, WITH MASSES OF THE DARK, SHIMMERING SUSTAIN THAT THIS CYMBAL POSSESSES IN ABUNDANCE"

players", which is an ambitious objective to achieve. So how do they fare?

21" RIDE

The first thing that struck me when placing this on the stand was how reassuringly heavy and thick this cymbal feels, and when I started playing I quickly understood why. When playing ride patterns it gives clear, crisp notes coupled with a long, dark sustain which shimmers with a rich warmth of dark vibrato.

While these dark overtones take a long time to subside, they never overpower the sticking patterns being played, no matter how fast the pattern or how heavy the effort. Moving on to the bell (played with the shoulder of the stick), what you have here is a very loud note, again with a long period of sustain, which on its own feels a little piercing, but if used when playing with a band is more than enough to cut through any wall of sound. Crashing this magnificent instrument gives a

"PLAYING OPEN ACCENTS GIVES A LOUD, DEEP BARK, WHILE HALF OPEN PRODUCES AN EXQUISITELY MUSICAL SIZZLE"

deep, dark explosion, with masses of the dark, shimmering sustain that this cymbal possesses in abundance. A great ride!

20" HEAVY CRASH

Yet again, this is a heavy cymbal that when struck produces a thunderous, deep, full-bodied sound, with a very focused, responsive attack coupled with a smooth, dark, shimmering decay. Like the accompanying ride, it has an abundance of vibrato-filled deep overtones, which really come to the fore when this cymbal is swelled using mallets. Although primarily a crash cymbal, it also works really well as a ride, producing very pleasing crisp, clean tones – however, this only works at lower volumes, as playing too loud brings out too many of the dark overtones, overpowering the ride patterns being played.

18" THIN CRASH

This cymbal shares many of the same qualities of its 20" big brother: focused attack, great response, full-bodied sound and a long, smooth, shimmering decay – although curiously it is lower pitched than the aforementioned 20" heavy

crash, even though it's smaller, lighter and thinner. It responds fantastically when used with mallets, offering a gradual, dark swell with lots of wash, although ride patterns are not as easily achieved as with its larger cousin, since the wash of this cymbal is significantly more audible than the other models but is at no point too much to overpower the initial tone of the cymbal.

14" HI-HATS

Here we have a pair of quite heavy,

dark-sounding hats, which produce very clear, precise notes with excellent stick response, especially when played at higher volumes. Like the rest of the cymbals covered so far, they have a notably long sustain with a waving, vibrato-filled decay. Playing open accents gives a loud, deep bark, while half open produces an exquisitely musical sizzle, again with the long, overtone-filled sustain. Pedalling these cymbals gives a nice crisp, clear chick sound, which is perfect for jazz/Latin patterns and projects greatly. These were undoubtedly my favourite cymbals of this set and gave a great account of themselves throughout different genres and volume levels.



9" SPLASH

Last, but by absolutely no means least, we have this little gem of a splash cymbal. Different to the rest of the offering, this is a high-pitched, very aggressive cymbal, with excellent attack, very short decay and just a hint of a dark overtone, which works perfectly for occasional accents and to spice up grooves. While it sounds quite far removed from the cymbals covered so far, it actually sits perfectly within this range, augmenting brilliantly the whole range of cymbals when used together.

CONCLUSION

All of these cymbals are quite simply beautiful; from dark, shimmering overtones – which are a feature that runs through the range – to the aggressive bark of the splash, to the warmth they all exude, these instruments are very nice to play. TRX's aforementioned claim that these cymbals are a combination of warm, rich vintage tones and the brighter, more powerful characteristics of modern cymbals is, I think, pretty close to the mark. Although they also claim that these cymbals are primarily designed with gospel type-grooves in mind, I think that they are much more than that, and would sound great in many different musical situations.