



Pang Cymbal

Dream Dark Matter, Pang Cymbals New Sonic Colors

The raw and powerful Dark Matter ride cymbals and the new Pang china cymbals expand the sonic palette of hand-made product lines available from Dream.

The Dark Matter Energy rides feature a “burned” finish, giving them a raw, blackened look that is visually striking (unfortunately, it can come off on your hands). They are created from a proprietary process where the cymbals are fired more than once during their birth cycle; the extreme stresses and heat from this process create a cymbal that is so dramatically changed on a molecular level that it takes months of aging to mature. The surface features various types of hand-hammering and medium-tight lathing; the bell is unlathed.

Ultra-precise stick definition and a very dry, dark sound are strong points with the Dark Matter cymbal. The bell is loud and cutting, piercing through any amplification you can throw at it. For as dry and heavy as they are, the cymbals are surprisingly crashable, producing a loud, long sustain. The Dark Matter rides are available in 20-inch and 22-inch sizes.

The Pang line offers a wide array of colors. Sizes available include 16-, 18-, 20- and 22-inch diameters, plus a 10-inch splash. Designed to blend elements of a traditional china type with that of a vintage-style swish, the Pangs feature abundant hand hammering and a medium-tight lathing pattern. A reverse bell makes them easier to play as a crash with the flange side down. The fast and responsive Pang Splash produces a trashy, sharp, pitch-bending sound that reminded me of a Peking opera gong. The 20-inch Pang is more versatile. It is extremely dark, trashy, loud and complex when used as a crash. Flange side up, you can ride on it, but control is required. It can easily overwhelm in a low-volume situation.

Dream has branched out from the norm with these new cymbals. Dark Matter rides are better suited for high-volume situations, but they still offer some complexity of sound. The Pang Splash is truly unique—I’ve never heard anything quite like it—and the 20-inch Pang offers a nice combination of an effects crash with ride capabilities.

—Ryan Bennett

Ordering info: dreamcymbals.com

DV-CHI Tenor Sax Mouthpiece *Windy City Timbres*

Jody Espina of JodyJazz continues to advance his DV line of metal sax mouthpieces, which feature the company’s patented “secondary window” right above the bore. Now, JodyJazz introduces the DVChicago (DV-CHI) mouthpiece for tenor saxophone, a silver-plated model that combines properties of the company’s DV and DV-NY series and adds new design modifications that increase your ability to manipulate tone.

Named for the rough-and-tumble tone favored by some of Chicago’s toughest jazz and blues tenormen, the DV-CHI has a unique baffle/chamber design that produces a robust, well-rounded sound that’s darker than the JodyJazz DV but considerably brighter than the DV-NY. Whether playing second tenor in a big band or blowing rowdy New Orleans-style r&b solos, you can push the DV-CHI hard without having to worry about its limitations. When I play-tested the DV-CHI, it gave me the same power I’ve experienced with the regular DV in the past, but with a broader tonal spectrum. I found that at any given point in a performance, I had more choices available to me. The effortless response of the DV-CHI allowed me to save my chops while making the horn sound especially solid and robust on the low end.

The DV-CHI blows so freely, JodyJazz recommends using a slightly harder reed than normal to compensate. “In my opinion, it’s the efficiency of vibration that makes them so free-blowing,” Espina said. “That’s achieved by a combination of thin side and tip rails, and the baffle and facing curve combination. The overall design elements work in harmony to let the reed really vibrate.” Espina also suggested trying a slightly more open tip than you’re used to. The DV-CHI is available in the following sizes: 7 (.101), 7* (.108) and 8 (.116).

As part of an introductory promotion, the DV-CHI tenor mouthpiece currently comes with one of JodyJazz’s new Ring ligatures. The Ring fits all DV series mouthpieces and is available in blackened brass, silver-plated brass and gold-plated brass versions. In a few months, the company will begin shipping its entire DV line with a Rico H ligature.

Ordering info: jodyjazz.com

