

REVIEW

Elite Hardware



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Affordable hardware just got a whole heap cheaper

words: Ian Croft images: Eckie

Elite is a brand that has been developed by Birmingham Drum Centre and we have reviewed some of the Elite hardware products in the past. The BDC folks have now added a couple of stools and a single and double pedal set-up to the list of Elite products available.

All the products hail from the Far East, as most hardware does and as any product that comes from that region, price is the most significant factor, as we all know that the build quality is usually impressive. The two stools and the two bass drum pedals that we have for review both look and feel striking in appearance and reliability.

Elite Stools

Let's start with the stools as it is always more comfortable to review things sitting down. Here we have a rounded vinyl, or plastic

covered stool alongside one that features a 'saddle', or 'motorcycle' shaped seat. Both stools utilise double-braced legs and a threaded shaft stool base with a secondary square-headed locking nut placed just above the base section to firmly hold the stool to your favoured height. To loosen or tighten the stool shaft, a weighty 'T' screw on a knurled collar is employed to ensure that the stool does not work loose during gigs.

The round top vinyl stool (DT-801) features a 3.5" padded seat and is ideal for those seeking a 'starter' stool as it performs admirably in that area. Plastic or vinyl stools can be prone to inducing a sweaty backside if used for prolonged periods, but the Elite stool held up quite comfortably for a couple of hours during a rehearsal and its lightness made it easy to throw into the hardware case without adding pounds to the already 'loaded' case.

The 'saddle'-shaped stool (DT-902) offers a Cordura covered

seat, with a leg cut-away design that offers a high level of comfort and back support, particularly as the saddle shape allows blood to flow freely without the stool's edge cutting into your thighs. There is some 4" of foam underneath the covering, so the comfort factor is high and fear of sweat induced baggy trousers is eliminated from the get-go.

Elite Bass Drum Pedals

What we have here is a single and a double pedal set-up, both featuring a full base plate that induces rigidity and strength into the design with a heavy-duty hinged cast footboard and two sprung anchor screws to prevent forward creep and a double-chain mechanism that displays signs of ruggedness - 'road worthy' is a phrase that immediately springs to mind. The post section is powder coated black and set against the gloss red of the base plate is reminiscent of DW's look. Each pedal uses a dual-faced beater that

Heads Up

PRICES:

Elite single pedal (PD-122)	£50
Elite double pedal (PD-222A)	£125
Elite round top stool (DT-801)	£45
Elite motorcycle stool (DT-902)	£75

UPBEATS

- ▲ Price
- ▲ Build
- ▲ Levels of pedal adjustment

DOWNBEATS

None

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offers felt or hard plastic options with a memory lock on the beater shaft to ensure consistent set-up, plus, the beater shaft block benefits from double locking nuts to ensure that the shaft does not work loose during play. The pedal's cam is fully adjustable so that you can easily angle the footplate level to your desired setting and spring tension is adjusted via a side positioned screw that benefits too from an additional locking bolt

that prevents the spring loosening during performance. When it comes to fitting the pedal to the bass drum hoop, Elite employs an off-set 'T' screw that lifts the hop clamp from beneath, pushing the front end down onto the hoop for a firm contact. A drum screw that will handle all adjustments sits in a plastic retainer that is set off the left-hand side post, so you always



know where the key is at any time.

With the double pedal set-up, the pedals are as the single version but with a drive linkage that is fully adjustable, allowing you to set the twin pedals at the correct angle and distance that is most comfortable. Additionally, you can use the 'slave' pedal as a single pedal without making any adjustments, simply put one of the beaters in the single shaft receiver and away you go without the need to strip parts or adjust angles. Balancing the two pedals is also quite easy in the initial set-up process as the fine-toothed cogs that sit on each top bar allow you to make exact adjustments each side, resulting in an even balance between both pedals. Equally, if your left foot is not quite as 'happening' as your right (reverse if you're a 'lefty') you can set up the slave pedal to an angle that balances the actual stroke point of impact to be the same as that of the 'main' pedal. Both pedals have a nice weight to them and impact is very firm, giving you a very workman-like pedal that not only is highly quick to respond, but one that feels solid under foot. Balance between both pedals is easy to establish in the initial set-up without too much messing around and due to the well thought out design and additional locking nuts, nothing is likely to move during performance or transportation. **D**

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Conclusion

Well, the stools rate very highly, especially based on price-point alone, and the bass drum pedals also fall into a similar category with few brands able to offer this level of design, adjustment and operation for this kind of money. Elite may not enjoy the same brand awareness of the big boys, but if it continues to produce products of this caliber and at these kind of prices, Elite will soon find itself firmly established in our minds. If you are looking for a change of hardware then you should at least give the Elite products a thorough look over as you could be laughing all the way to the bank.