

# FIVE-STAR TECH TIPS

## CYMBAL SELECTION

Cymbals come in many different types, sizes, weights and finishes. Together, these elements determine how a cymbal sounds and how well it will fit the music you play.

The basic sound of a cymbal is created by the type of metal used. Today, most cymbals are made of bronze which is a combination of copper and tin. Pro-style cymbals are made with 80% copper and 20% tin; a formula known as B20. Other lines with 12% or 8% tin are called B12 and B8, respectively. These formulas date back centuries and, traditionally, the higher the tin content, the fuller and more musical the sound.

After the alloy is mixed, it is either cast into individual ingots that are rolled and stretched into discs or formed into large sheets that several discs can be cut out of. Each process has its own features and benefits, with cast cymbals said to each have a unique tonal personality and sheet cymbals being more sonically consistent.

Whichever method is used, once the raw cymbal is formed it is tempered for strength and then shaped, tapered, lathed, hammered and buffed. These procedures not only affect the appearance of the cymbal,

they also refine and focus its sound so that each type of cymbal (see illustrations below) has its own distinctive tonal character.

In selecting cymbals the following general criteria and rules apply:

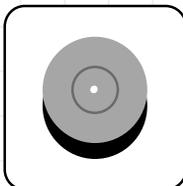
- **Weight** - Heavier cymbals are higher in pitch with more projection and durability. Those with a gradual taper are faster and more explosive yet somewhat less durable.
- **Size** - Larger cymbals are louder, lower in pitch and sustain longer. Cymbals with smaller bells have a more controlled frequency range and a shorter sustain.
- **Profile** - A cymbal with a higher profile will be drier and higher in pitch.
- **Finish** - Regular hammering patterns produce a more focused sound. Irregular patterns produce a darker sound. Lathing creates tonal grooves for a fuller sound. Cymbals with less grooves or a dull finish will produce a darker, drier tone.

When picking your cymbals, mix-and-match a set that complements your playing and try them on a drumset using your own sticks. Let someone else hit them while you listen, too. After all, 2 of the most important factors in cymbal selection are your ears.

style	tone/pitch	attack/decay	weight	taper	profile	bell	finish
world	dark/low	mid/mid	light	even	low	large	rough
jazz/r&b	dark/low	mid/long	medium	gradual	mid	mid	dull
pop/latin	mid/mid	mid/mid	medium	gradual	mid	mid	grooves
rock	bright/high	max/fast	heavy	even	high	small	smooth



splash (6-12")



hihats (10-15")



crash (14-20")



effects (12-22")



ride (18-22")

To learn more about cymbals, including the cymbals your favorite drummers play, ask your dealer or log on to the cymbal companies' websites listed throughout this guide.