

*The idea behind  
Cush Pads  
is that they will  
not inhibit  
the tonal  
qualities of  
your cymbals.*

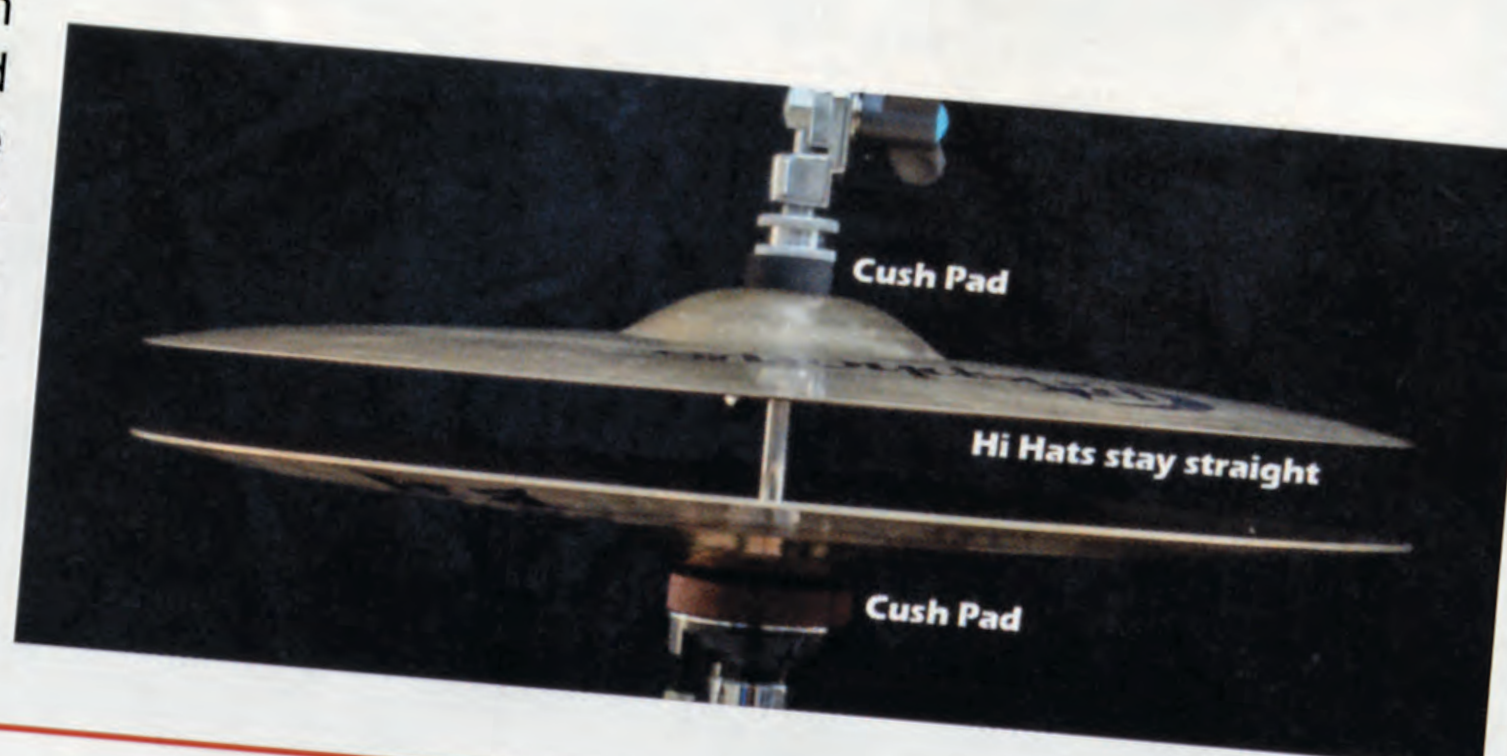
GEAR2SHARE

## NEW OFFERINGS FROM SONALL PERCUSSION CUSH PADS AND TONE TAMERS

BY KELLY KING

Sonall Percussion's "Cush Pads" are their modern take on the cymbal felt. The pads are basically exactly the same as the cymbal felts you have used your entire drumming life with one huge exception...they're not made of felt. This one difference actually creates a pretty noticeable sonic difference and one added advantage. Cush Pads are made of what seems to be a highly flexible rubber, but it's not rubber. The material is not porous. This means that the pads won't change shape (giving that odd tilt to your ride) and won't allow the sound waves to pass through them.

The idea behind Cush Pads is that they will not inhibit the tonal qualities of your cymbals. In theory, your cymbals are muted or muffled to a certain degree by felt washers in the same way that drum hardware without an isolation system can mute a tom. To their credit, the Cush Pads did exactly this. When I compared my cymbals on stands with felt washers and Cush Pads,



the Cush Pads did have a wider spectrum. This was most clear with the higher frequencies. If you play primarily darker, low-pitched cymbals the differences will likely not be as dramatic but still present. Ideally, these would serve best in a recording, or lower volume jazz setting. That being said, it couldn't hurt to have them when playing in any genre. Now, that added bonus...perhaps one of my biggest pet peeves concerning felt washers is that they fall off if a cymbal stand is turned over without a wing nut or hi-hat clutch on top. It doesn't happen all of the time but anyone who has been crawling around on a pitch dark drum riser after their set, using their iPhone as flashlight, looking for the felt that just fell off their hi-hat stand...you understand. The Cush Pads sat snug on every stand and when tested, none of them slid off, yet they were all easily removable. Whether or not this was part of the design, it is a welcome feature. For those with highly discerning ears, Cush Pads are worth a shot. \*

Also available from Sonall Percussion are the "Tone Tamers." I was very surprised to find out that this was Sonall's first product dating back to the 80's. Let me first say that I am a fan of a resonant drum sound. I know that concert toms are all the rage right now but I still love a drum that sings out. I also know that there are a variety of situations in which my drums need to be controlled. The bag (containing 10", 12" 14", & 16") Tone Tamers has been in my drum accessory bag ever since I received them. I found that they are one of the most useful tools I possess for controlling the drum sound. Most obvious is the ability to change the snare sound (sometimes between verse and chorus) from a flat 70's sounding snare to a more open and big sound. I've used them to control both the sustain of the toms as well as to make the dynamic range easier to control on both singer/songwriter and church gigs, which also makes them more comfortable to play. Doubling up the Tamer to one side (ala half-moon) also provided some interesting choices. There are a number of these types of items on the market but the ease and durability of the Tone Tamers is very high making it an easy choice. I use them every week in some type of musical setting. This is a great addition to your musical palette. \*

WEBFOOT

sonallpercussion.com