

HEADS UP FUSION PREMIUM SERIES DRUM BAGS

PRICE

Beat 22 Cymbal Bag: £199.95 Beat Snare Backpack: £149.95 Beat Pro Backpack: £84.95 Beat 12 Stick Bag: £49.95

CONTACT

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Fusion Premium Series drum bags

Protect your gear with this new range of padded cases

Words: Nick Carter **Images**: Thru-A-Lupe Photographic

usion may well be a new name on the drumming scene, but its instrument cases have been offering protection for a range of instruments since the company launched in 2008. After showcasing their wares at last year's London Drum Show, we were very keen to take a look at some of the available range.

BEAT 22 CYMBAL CASE

This particular case features 30mm highdensity foam padding to protect your precious discs, with the bag holding up to six cymbals (of a maximum 22" diameter) in its main compartment, and hi-hats/splash cymbals in the front pocket. The interior of the case is lined with luxuriously soft fleece, with the added advantage of having removable 10mm fleece sleeves acting as dividers in both compartments to keep your cymbals separated. The case also features a third compartment containing a removable stick bag, which is big enough to hold multiple sticks and accessories. The rugged construction of the case sees it sporting thicker rubber padding around the bottom and hard-rubber studs for it to stand on, as well as heavy-duty zips with rubber zip pulls. This spotlights one slight area that could be improved on, as the zip for the main compartment is designed to accommodate a lock, but the front pocket holding your hi-hats/ splashes doesn't: it would have been good to have this option on both so that all cymbals can be equally protected. There are two ways to carry the case: either using the strong top handles that are soft-padded to protect your hands, or as a backpack using the padded straps and associated clips tucked away in the back of the case. Fusion also produce a handy trolley system that the case can attach to if you prefer to wheel your cymbal collection around - particularly useful if weight is a consideration.

BEAT SNARE BACKPACK

Like the cymbal case, the Beat snare case is made from 30mm high-density padded foam, with a water-resistant polyester exterior. The case can accommodate snares of varying diameter (up to 15") and depth up to 7" thanks to the inclusion of a series of padded blocks to protect smaller drums. As with the cymbal case, it features several external pockets, one of which containing a removable stick bag so you can equip yourself with any number of accessories you may need on your musical travels. The rubber reinforcement sections make this a rugged backpack, which you can carry by its strong top handle, on your back using the stowaway straps, or on your shoulder with the included strap. The backpack matches its cymbal-carrying stablemate for protection and portability.

BEAT PRO BACKPACK

Slightly thinner than the models looked at so far, the Beat Pro backpack is made from 15mm foam, with an assortment of pouches and pockets to enable you to carry everything you need when travelling. Big enough to accommodate laptops up to 15", the case also features a removable stick bag as well as a reinforced rubber base to avoid unwanted wear. Having used the case on a number of different gigs and rehearsals, we found it useful, especially thanks to the amount of space it provides and the easy-carry options.

BEAT 12 STICK BAG

This hefty stick bag is designed to carry a multitude of sticks, brushes, rods and accessories. Made from 10mm high-density foam, it also features many of the other qualities found on the rest of the range: heavy-duty zips, strong carry handles and stowaway backpack straps. The main compartment not only houses your various striking implements, but also has pockets for other related accessories - earplugs, drum keys, pens and more - and a pouch big enough to accommodate an iPad or similar. On the outside, multiple pockets offer further storage, although if too much is contained within each, the case becomes slightly too large and heavy to hang on to your floor tom in a traditional fashion. Like the rest of the range, the stick bag is well built and comfortable to carry.

