

SNARE  
DRUM  
OF  
THE  
MONTH

**taye** 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ x14 stainless steel



**T**his shiny steel snare was tuned up pretty tight when I took it out of the box. When I first played it, it sounded good—loud and cutting with a lot of crisp snare response—without standing out as anything extraordinary. But before I chose to write it off as just another decent metal snare, I grabbed my drum key and started backing off the tension. It took only a couple turns on each lug before my ears really started to perk up. As the pitch went down, the tone got fatter and surprisingly warmer, and the overtones began chiming out in perfect harmony.

I played this medium-tuned Taye alongside two of my favorite 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ x14 Bonham-style metal snares, a beat-up Ludwig 402 and a pristine Slingerland Sound King from the '70s. Both of these drums are great for

getting that fat, honking *Houses Of The Holy*-era snare tone. But even when compared with these two classics, which are go-to snares for many top studio drummers, the Taye stood its ground, and then some. After I recorded all three drums, I discovered that the Taye had more presence, packed a deeper punch, and was considerably louder than the others. And while I often have to add pieces of rolled-up tape to the Ludwig and Slingerland in order to get rid of sour overtones, the Taye sounded amazing when left wide open. I ended up choosing this snare over several others for a recent session where the track called for big, resonant backbeats. Don't let the super-cheap \$315 price tag fool you—this guy's for real.

[www.tayedrums.com](http://www.tayedrums.com)

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