

Taye

GoKit

by Dave Previ

THE NUMBERS

Five piece GoKit with hardware: \$1,399
tayedrums.com



As a drummer in New York City who doesn't own a car, I have a deep appreciation for compact drums. Lightweight drums and hardware are a must when moving drums to gigs via cabs, subways, and busses. (You've got to have some energy left for the music once you get to the club!) Taye's GoKit certainly holds its own as a lightweight drumkit that also sounds pretty good. Here's "the skinny."

On The Go

After playing the GoKit in my apartment for a couple of days (with brushes), I packed it up and moved it to my rehearsal space. The 6x12 floating floor tom, 5x13 snare, and 7x18 bass drum fit into a 16x18 bass drum bag, the 5x8 and 5 1/2x10 toms fit into an 8x12 tom bag, and the hardware folded up into a small hardware case. (Taye offers three cases especially for the GoKit, which can also hold cymbals, throne tops, and a double pedal.) The three cases that I used fit easily onto my fold-up hand truck. So the twelve-block walk to my studio was as easy as it usually is. This five-piece kit really packs up tight!

Setting up the GoKit is a breeze, due to the thumbscrew-

adjustable memory locks that Taye uses on all its mounts. All of the mounts held their position after making the trip to my studio, so each drum sat exactly as I had it in my apartment.

More Sound Than Expected

For drums with such shallow shell depths, the GoKit toms have a surprising amount of sustain. Each one has a clear tone that's suitable for high-energy funk fills, solo-supporting jazz licks, chorus-building rock hits, or colorful accents in a ballad. Their attack was quick and bright. And if you swap out the single-ply coated Dynaton heads for something a little thicker, you might even be able to pull off a convincing rock 'n' roll sound (if you keep your eyes closed, of course).

The 12" mounted floor tom was the most impressive drum of the three toms because of its warm, loud tone and long sustain. I liked how this drum meshed with the snare for 8th-note builds and for rolling hand/foot triplet patterns. It's sound was much larger than I expected, almost as if it were an actual floor tom.

The bass drum, while not sounding as impressive behind the kit

as it did from the front—and lacking a certain amount of projection—had a low-end punch that seemed impossible for its size. The 8" and 10" toms were bright and clear, and the snare had enough attack and ring to make it equally at home within a full-size kit.

Multi-Purpose Hardware With Minor Drawbacks

I found two pieces of hardware on the GoKit to be the weakest parts of the setup. For one, the snare basket rotates in a ball & socket joint that positions the center of the snare away from the center of the tripod base. Because of this off-balanced positioning, even the slightest bump with my thigh sent the snare tipping towards the toms. And if you use clip-on mics, the drum is even more prone to falling. This got annoying after a while. Also, the 10" and 12" toms tip forward within their RIMS-type suspension mounting system, which can make it a little tough to find your ideal positioning.

The other hardware pieces of the GoKit work fine. The hi-hat stand and cymbal boom are lightweight but sturdy, and the bass

drum pedal is on par with most I've played. The rack tom mount holds a cymbal arm, and the floor tom attaches to a mount on a cymbal stand, so you have plenty of options for positioning drums and cymbals while also eliminating the need for extra stands.

Self-Attenuating Circumstances

The GoKit would work well in any small-venue acoustic situation, not only because it takes up minimal space, but also because the small sizes and short shell depths help limit the decibel level these drums can produce. That's not to say that these drums sound weak, they just sound best when played at a soft to medium volume. If pushed too hard, they'll choke. But that's true with any drum if it's overplayed.

As a performance instrument, the GoKit would sound best at softer restaurant/bar gigs and weddings. It would also work great as a teaching kit in your private studio, as a mobile kit if you travel to your students, or as a rehearsal kit with your band. For what they are, these drums have a quality sound that stands up to that of any other portable drumkit on the market.