

Taye

Accessory Clamping System (ACS)

by Fran Azzarto

The Taye Manufacturing Company has been making drums and hardware for over thirty years. Much of that time has been spent behind the scenes, building equipment for other musical instrument companies. In 1999, Taye decided to put out its own line of drum gear; since then it has become a major supplier of premium-quality instruments to drummers around the world. Taye's philosophy is that "Good drums need not cost a fortune and should be widely accessible." To the retailer, this means quality products priced to move!

In addition to producing great drums for all types of players, Taye has also addressed something that has plagued drummers since the inception of the drumkit itself—hardware. All drummers need stands, and weight, size, design, floor imprint, and other factors come into play when consumers choose what to buy. It can be a laborious process: Should a stand be single or double braced? Does it need a boom arm? What about a counterweight? The questions go on and on.

To make drummers' lives easier, Taye came up with the Accessory Clamping System, otherwise known as ACS. According to the company, the ACS "features a fully expandable multi-clamping, multi-booming solution for all your accessories, cymbals, and drums." For a more in-depth look at this unique hardware, we talked to Taye sales and marketing coordinator West Wheeler.

Taye has been manufacturing drums and hardware for around thirty-four years. With all this experience and knowledge, it seems the ACS is a natural progression for innovative hardware design. What was the initial inspiration for creating the system?

Taye Drums is a configuration-friendly company that can help drummers build their drumset in almost any way imaginable. The Accessory Clamping System was born out of a necessity to shrink your footprint, because drumsets were getting larger and larger while stages were not. This is the best way for drummers to create numerous setups with a minimal number of stands.

The ACS focuses on the placement of multiple cymbals without the use of multiple stands. What are some of the advantages of the system, beyond shrinking a drummer's footprint?



Taye's Accessory Clamping System offers drummers an infinite number of hardware positioning options.

Drummers can attract more attention by having cymbals going in all directions, which adds a new look to the kit. You can also put cymbals exactly where you want them. You can squeeze a cymbal in between two stands, drums, or other cymbals. Not only are you not adding to your footprint, you're not breaking the bank for more cymbal stands. For drummers who have gotten a little bored with their current configuration, this is a huge advantage.

Being that setup and breakdown time is extremely important to a gigging drummer, what are the system's selling points in terms of time efficiency? When you put it all together where you want the pieces mounted, you can break it down without taking it apart fully and leave the ACS in the places where you need it, mainly because the clamps and booms are smaller than what's on an average cymbal stand. For example, you can leave the ACS clamp on the stand's vertical tube. So when you take the stand apart, the clamp almost acts like a memory lock.

Speaking of memory locks, I don't see a lot of them incorporated into the ACS. Is there a reason for this?

Simply put, to save weight.

Was the hardware put through any weight and balance testing for mounting multiple cymbals of different sizes?

Everything we manufacture is put through its paces in Taiwan before it gets here. Our factory is based there, and we make everything in house, from the shells, finishes, and hoops all the way to the nylon washers. We can submit an idea that may take up to a year and a half or longer before it's properly tested. We also have a lot of players all over the world who test our products in live situations.

How would you compare the ACS hardware's durability with other Taye hardware?

It's just as strong and durable as our other lines of stands and hardware. For example, at NAMM 2009 we had a kit on display with nine mounted cymbals, a hi-hat stand, and the ACS-PK603 snare

boom stand. All nine cymbals were mounted on two floor stands, with most of the cymbals coming off the center tom mount. Another cymbal was mounted with the ACS-PK603 snare stand, and one more was coming off the hi-hat stand. When I got up on the riser to mess around with the kit, it was fully functional—not just a showpiece.

When comparing stand-alone cymbal stands with the ACS hardware, how much weight are you saving in your gig bag?

A single ACS piece is a quarter of the weight of our 6000 series heavy-duty stands. So by putting the ACS in your hardware bag, you're really saving your back. With the PK-008 cymbal/floor tom mount, for instance, you can throw a China or crash into your setup without carrying a separate stand for that cymbal. Substituting ACS pieces for stand-alone stands means fewer large stands in your bag. So you're really going to be lowering the overall weight of your hardware.

Now that you've brought up the PK-008 cymbal/floor tom mount, have you found the floor tom moving out of position when you mount a 16" crash or China on it?

No, no movement at all.

Is ACS hardware compatible with other manufacturers' stands and mounts?

As long as the other manufacturers' rods and tubes have diameters of 1/2" or 3/4", it works fine.

For drummers thinking about purchasing multiple cymbal stands, is it more economical to use the ACS?

It's far more economical. Let's look at the ACS-PK506 double cymbal stand. Our 5200 series boom with ball tilter, which holds one cymbal, retails for

\$105. The PK506 retails for \$169.99. So a cymbal stand that holds two cymbals is only \$65 more than the single 5200 series stand.

Where is the ACS positioned in the hardware price market?

It's priced to be very reasonable. Again, we call ourselves a configuration-friendly company. That's why we came out with so many different configurations of the ACS. You can get a tom arm and a boom arm in one package, or you can purchase each separately. We put the package at a price point where you would save money by purchasing it, rather than by buying the pieces separately.

Who are some artists on your roster that are using the system?

Aaron Thier, who's a well-renowned German studio artist, and Garin Rosen of Arsonists Get All The Girls. And Yvette "Baby Girl" Preyer of Michael McDonald's band is using some ACS.

Lastly, what is your target market for the ACS?

The ACS is professional-level gear that's very affordable. It's for anyone who's after a new look or who wants to create more space. One of our mottos over the past few years is that Taye believes we have something that can be a good fit for every drummer. The ACS can be used for any musical genre, from the fusion guy who has a ton of cymbals to the drum 'n' bass guy who doesn't want to crowd the stage. Plus, you don't need an engineering degree to use this stuff. Entry-level to pro guys can all make the ACS a part of their normal setup and save space, money, and weight.

For more information on the Accessory Clamping System, including components and setups, as well as the rest of the Taye product line, visit www.tayedrums.com or contact the company at (877) 709-8293.

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