

Drum Equipment used in Steve Smith: Drumset Technique/History of the U.S. Beat



For the "History of the U.S. Beat" we rented the following 1940's Radio King drumset and equipment from Carroll Sound in NYC:

- Bass Drum - 22" x 14" with calfskin heads
- Mounted Tom - 13" x 9"
- Floor Tom - 16" x 16" floor tom
- 1930's "puffy" beater ball and a vintage muffling system, which I occasionally used on the batter side head of the bass drum.

The rest of the equipment for the History of the US Beat is from my own collection. The bass drum pedal is an old DW single pedal. The snare drum is a 1928 Ludwig Black Beauty with Remo Diplomat heads, top and bottom. The woodblock and mount I got from Marty Mahoney, a friend of mine who has drumshop in Las Vegas. The small cowbell is a new Zildjian cowbell that is exactly like the older classic "jazz" cowbells.

Zildjian Cymbal set-ups in the following examples of History of the US Beat:

- Early New Orleans Jazz - 19" K China, 8" A splash.
- Big Band Swing - 20" A Vintage ride, 18" Constantinople crash and very old and thin 12" K hi hats.
- Bebop, Rhythm and Blues, Gospel, Blues and Rock 'n' Roll – 20" A Vintage ride, very old 22" K Zildjian, 14" K hi hats.
- Country - 14" K hi hats.

For the History of the U. S. Beat we used only two overhead mics and a bass drum mic on the vintage kit. The band didn't use head phones, we setup so we could hear each other acoustically in the room — just like they used to in the early days of recording.

For the Solo Drum pieces and the Vital Information tunes I used the following:

Zildjian Cymbals:

rides - 21" K Special Dry, 20" A Custom Sizzle
hi hats - 14" K top/14" A Mastersound bottom
crashes - 16" and 17" A Custom Fast
splash - 9" China Trash
remote hi hats - China Trash Hats 12" over 14"
special - 16" remix Special EFX

Sonor Designer drums made of Maple with Blue Stain finish:

Bass Drum - 20" x 14"
Rack Toms - 8" x 8"/10" x 8"/12" x 8"
Floor Toms - 14" x 14"/16" x 16"
Snare Drums - 14" x 5" Jeff Ocheltree Phantom Steel,
Sonor Designer Soprano with a Bubinga finish - 12" x 5"

Remo Drum Heads:

Clear Ambassador on top and bottom of the toms
Coated Ambassador on the top of the snare drums
Clear Diplomats on the bottom of the snare drums
Clear Powerstroke 3 on front and back of the bass drum.

Vic Firth Sticks:

Steve Smith Signature model.

Bass Drum Pedals:

DW 9000 Titanium Double Pedal.

Shure Microphones:

Beta 98s are used on all of the toms
Beta 52 on the front of the bass drum
Beta 52 mounted inside the Sonor bass drum
SM 56 on the snare drums
KSM32 as over heads
SM 81 on the hi hat