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Subject: Re: Zildjian Cymbals

Posted by [Thermionic](#) on Wed, 04 Apr 2012 04:13:18 GMT

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As AdrianG stated, Zildjian has a sterling reputation for consistently using superior alloys and construction methods to the "el cheapo" brands. Sabian is the other hi-end brand, and some would throw Paiste in that group as well. However, I personally haven't heard any Paiste cymbals that really knocked me out, and I don't know a single drummer out of several dozen local guys who owns even one Paiste.

But, I know a lot of drummers who play Sabian, to the point that Zildjian and Sabian are probably seen about 50/50 around here. To my own ears and tastes, the best crash cymbals I've ever heard were some particular Sabians, although I must say I've never heard a Zildjian that was a slacker by any means.

The best ride cymbal I ever heard, hands down, was a very old Zildjian that belonged to a guy I played in a few different bands with. It was absolutely magical! Likewise, the best hats I've ever heard was a toss-up between two particular sets, one Zildjian, the other Sabian.

In the past few years, a lot of guys around here have started using Stagg cymbals. There's a relatively new company that has the best bang-for-the-buck cymbals on the market. A friend (who is a pro-grade drummer) who owns a music store began carrying them after playing some samples. They've sold like crazy. Local drummers first started buying their special effects cymbals to "flesh out" their kits, because the prices were so good. Many have since used Stagg to replace cracked Zildjian and Sabian crashes over the course of time.

Stagg's lower line cymbals aren't up to snuff when pitted against the pro-line Zildjian and Sabian stuff, but they're nevertheless very usable; way better than anything else in their price range. Stagg's upper-line cymbals are very impressive, and similar to Zildjian and Sabian in sound quality. Alas, they're almost as expensive, too.

Thermionic

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