



BANG ON THE DRUM ALL DAY

D:Fuse sings the praises of the Roland HPD 15 Handsonic. q&a **Darren Ressler**

How does that drum you use in your live set work? The Roland HPD 15 Handsonic has a large drum pad. It's basically like playing any percussion type drum (i.e. congas, bongos, tablas, snares, etc). It also has multiple sound effects and synth tones. The unit uses virtual modeling, so everytime you hit the pad it produces a slightly different tone, which makes it sound as close to the real thing as I've ever heard. It's very touch sensitive and can give a true feel, whether banging the hell out of it (which I like to do live), or tapping it softly (which is great for studio work).

Why did you start using it? When I was just three, my mom said I used to drag all of her Tupperware out into the middle of the kitchen floor and bang on it for hours. Drums were my first love in music. My mother gave me my first complete drum set when I was about 10. I lived behind it for the next 12 years in the live music scene [playing] with various bands. When I saw how portable the Handsonic was and how real it sounded, I knew it would be a great tool live.

What does it add to your DJ sets? I love the experience real "live" shows bring. And this is a way I can make the shows move more in that direction. The second I start playing the drum in my sets, the crowds come alive, they know this isn't going to be the standard DJ thing. I'm a performer by heart, and this allows me to interact with the crowd on a completely different level. It also allows me to add percussive momentum to records and layer over sound effects and textures.

How have audiences reacted to its use? The crowds love it. I get e-mails about the drum all the time, and promoters are always talking about the response it gets. It's absolutely vital to my sets now. The Handsonic went

down a few months ago, and I had to get it repaired. I went through hell with multiple delays trying to get it fixed by Roland. It took almost a month. You'd think that as much as I use this thing, I would have gotten a loaner, but no deal. I felt naked performing without it!

Do you use any other gear in your DJ sets? I record at least three live sets from my home studio every week. When I recorded *People_2* and when I'm doing these radio sets for XM and FM radio, I use the DigiTech Vocal300 for my voiceover work, and the Allen & Heath Xone:62 mixer. They're both excellent pieces of gear that give me a warm sound I can send straight to radio without sound editing. I'm still finalizing everything with the full-length album, but I plan on playing a full drum and percussion set for that tour.

D:Fuse's People_2: Both Sides of the Picture is out now on System Recordings.

D:FUSE'S CURRENT TOP 10

- 01| Dixie Chicks "Travelin' Soldier" (Sony)
- 02| D:Fuse "Everything With You" feat. Jes (Club Mix) (3Beat)
- 03| Jamez "People Will Believe" (Orig/Quiver's Big Bounce Mix) (Future Groove)
- 04| Sam La More "Takin Hold" (Musica Dub) (Underwater)
- 05| Tok Tok vs Soffy O "Day of Mine (Ludicrous Idiots)" (Starecase Vox Mix) (East West)
- 06| David Forbes "Answers" (Scanners Mix) (Red Monkey)
- 07| Grayarea "One For the Road" (Gabriel and Dresden's Interstate 5 Mix) (Hope)
- 08| Miro "The One I Run To" (Skyline)
- 09| King Unique "Lighters" (Junior London)
- 10| Kinnder "Got 2 U" (Alpha Numeric)