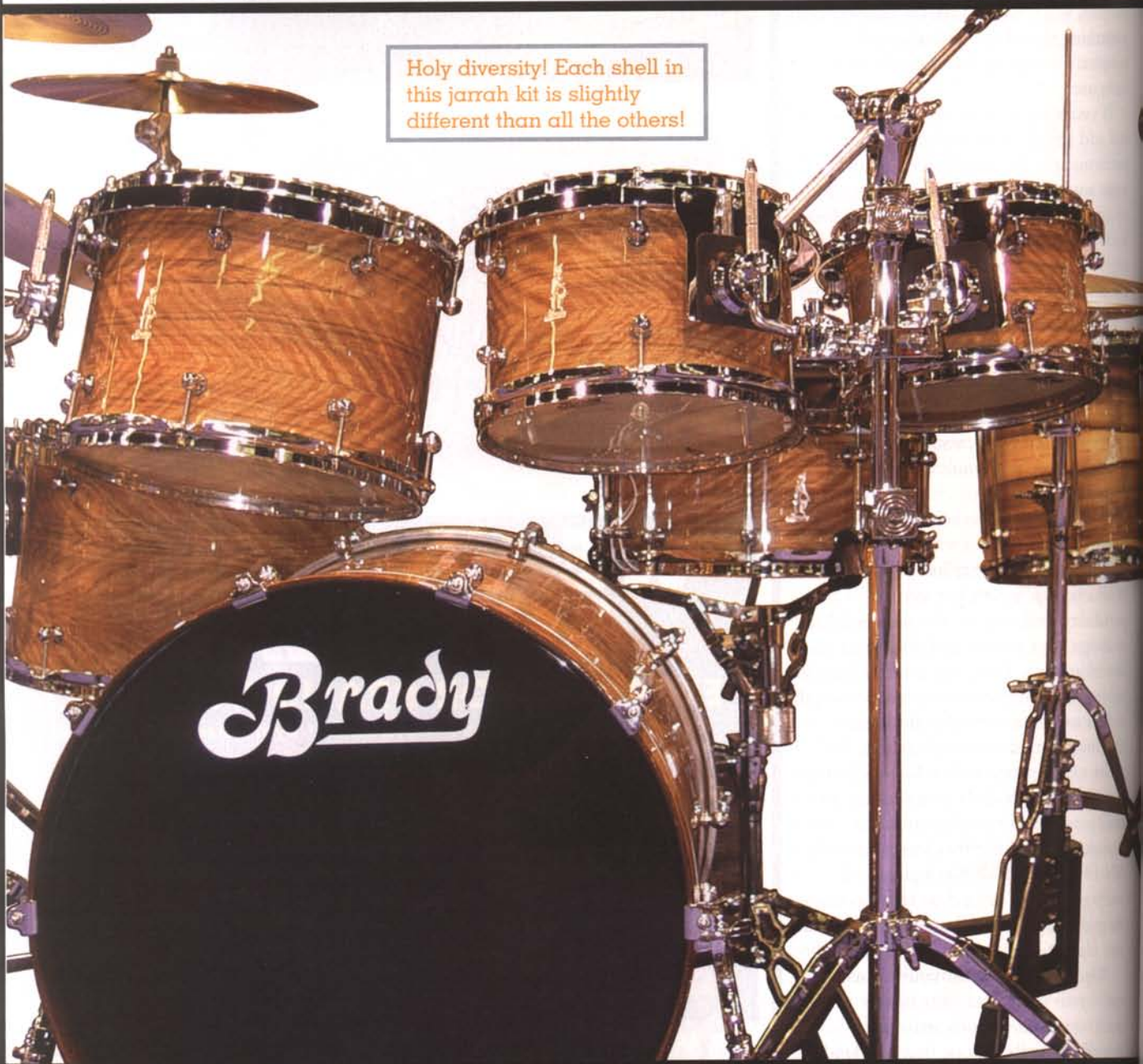


# SOUNDLAB

## BRADY JARRAH EXOTIC GLOSS KIT HEAVEN FROM DOWN UNDER

by Brad Schlueter

Holy diversity! Each shell in this jarrah kit is slightly different than all the others!



### DETAILS

**MODEL:** Brady Jarrah Exotic Gloss Kit

**LIST PRICE:** \$8,330

**SHELLS:** All drums feature 100-percent jarrah shells

**SIZES:** Kit includes 10" x 7", 12" x 8", 14" x 10", and 16" x 11" suspended toms (and four tom mounting clamps), a 22" x 18" bass drum, and a 14" x 6.5" snare drum

**FINISH:** Brush Box high gloss

**HEADS:** Remo clear Emperor heads on tom batters with clear Ambassador resonant heads, CI Reverse Dot Coated snare batter and clear snare side head, clear Powerstroke bass drum batter with black solid resonant logo head

**CONTACT:** Brady Drums, 17 Stone St., Armadale WA, 6112, Australia. 61 8 94972212.  
bradydrums.com.au



**Sensitive, crisp, full, and loud – what else do you want from a snare?**

with single-ply Ambassadors underneath. A clear Powerstroke was chosen for the bass drum batter, and a solid black logo head with a muffling ring around its edge faced the audience side. The only surprising choice was the snare batter. Brady chose a Remo coated head with a reverse black dot. Reinforced heads are normally best suited to hard rock/metal drumming, so I expected to find a more general-purpose skin, such as a coated Ambassador, in its place.

**THE SOUND.** Okay, the drums are well made and beautiful, but let's get to it: How do they sound? In a word – *awesome*. I played the kit over a period of a several weeks, and once properly tuned, the drums sang. I was concerned about the shell sizes when I first saw the kit. I've never been crazy about 14" x 10" toms, preferring drums 14" in diameter to be at least 11" or 12" deep; and though I'd never played an 16" x 11" tom, I wasn't certain it would offer the "oom" sound I look for. I was wrong. The toms had a full, low tone and enough decay to sound rich without being boomy. The kick sounded equally full and deep, with enough balls for rock, but it wasn't uncontrollably boomy either. I had it tuned pretty low, and it still sounded great. Although I originally had reservations about the reverse dot snare head, the drum sounded sensitive and responsive – crisp but still full. The 6.5" depth also made it plenty loud. Rimshots were full and cutting enough to make your guitarist turn up. Rim-clicks cut too, though a die-cast hoop might make them even louder. I thought the head choice wouldn't work well for mambo-type Latin patterns, with the cascara pattern played near the snare head's edge, but it still yielded the overtones needed for the groove. I liked the snare a lot and wish I'd been able to record with it.

**VERDICT.** Excellent sound and classy looks – these drums leave little to nitpick about ... except, that is, for the big price tag. But are they worth the money? Yes!

*Thanks to the Drum Pad for providing the kit for this review.*

**A**s Australia's premier drum maker, Brady has earned a reputation for making superb drums from woods not common to the rest of the planet. The kit sent to me was made from 100-percent jarrah, a hardwood indigenous to the western part of the country. Having had little experience with jarrah-shell drums, I was eager to get my sticks on them.

**THE SHELLS.** Brady has been making drums from exotic woods for nearly 20 years. Different woods have different sonic signatures. Maple produces evenly balanced frequencies, while birch has more pronounced highs and lows in relation to its midrange. Either material can make great sounding drums: Players who love a big, booming rock-and-roll kit might choose maple; those seeking a lot of attack often go for birch. It's a bit like comparing apples to oranges. But what about *quandongs* – the native Australian peach? Jarrah is a denser, harder wood than either birch or maple, producing drums that have plenty of attack as well as deep, rich tone.

The shell pack sent for review included 10" x 7", 12" x 8", 14" x 10", and 16" x 11" suspended toms, a 22" x 18" bass drum, and a 14" x 6.5" snare drum. The 10" tom was constructed of six plies of pure jarrah; the 12", seven plies; the 14", eight plies; and the 16", nine plies. Both the kick drum and the snare were made from ten plies. This reminded me a bit of Pearl's design approach to its new Reference Series, which uses a different shell thickness for each drum to maximize individual sound.

**THE FINISH.** Brady offers drums in either high-end gloss finishes or

less-pricey satin finishes. When I first laid eyes on the review kit, I was immediately drawn to its subtle beauty. The drums had a Brush Box gloss finish with beige/taupe mid-brown tones. The color intersected in V-shaped patterns of light stripes that overlapped elegantly. It wasn't a flashy finish but suited the distinguished quality of the drums quite well. After all, you don't see too many fluorescent lime-green Rolls Royces – unless you live in California.

### **OTHER FEATURES.**

Brady drums had chromed, solid brass, ball-shaped lugs. The two mounted toms had six lugs per head, the two suspended floor toms had eight lugs per head, and the snare and kick had ten lugs per head. The bass drum featured telescoping spurs, and its claws were die-cast and rubber lined to protect the gorgeous matching hoops. Like many premium bass drums, it had no tom mount, so all toms must be suspended from cymbal stands or a rack. The toms came with Gibraltar isolation suspension mounts for enhanced sustain. The tom arms included with the shell pack were ball-and-socket-style arms also made by Gibraltar. The vent holes had die-cast rubber-lined grommets that add to the drums appearance. Each drum had a small Brady logo made of clear plastic and featuring an image of a drummer carrying a marching snare – refreshingly different from other drum companies' logos. The snare drum had a clear Nickel Drumworks throw-off, which was the only part of the kit that looked out of place. I'd prefer a chromed steel strainer on such a gorgeous drum.

The drums came with Remo heads, and all suited the kit pretty well. The toms had two-ply Emperor batter heads,