

ESSENTIAL SPEC



PRICES:

24" Mb20 Pure Metal ride: £699 (including free cymbal bag)
21" Byzance Brilliant Serpents ride: £459
22" Byzance Dark Spectrum ride: £528
22" Byzance Dark Stadium ride: £528
19" Byzance Dark Sky ride: £368
20" Byzance Jazz Club ride: £398
22" Byzance Jazz Club ride: £528
20" Mb10 Bell Blast ride: £277
18" Generation X Safari ride: £159

CAST OR PRESSED:

Both, according to individual cymbal

ALLOY USED:

B20, B12, B10, B8 bronzes & nickel silver

FINISH:

Natural, buffed, raw, polished, according to individual cymbal

HAND OR MACHINE

HAMMERED:

Both, according to individual cymbal

COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE:

Turkey/Germany

DIAMETERS AVAILABLE:

18", 19", 20", 21", 22" & 24"

MODELS AVAILABLE:

Rides only!

SUITABLE FOR:

Just about anything you can play!

CONTACT:

Active Music Distribution
7 Goose Green Trading Estate
47 East Dulwich Road
London SE22 9BN
Telephone
020 8693 5678
www.meinl.com

22" BYZANCE DARK

Spectrum Ride, made for Rodney Holmes

20" MB10 BELL

Blast, *Rhythm* columnist Jason Bittner's ride

22" JAZZ CLUB RIDE

courtesy of Byzance and Wolfgang Haffner

MEINL SIGNATURE RIDES



From £159 Q: What makes a perfect ride? A: How long have you got? Adam Jones discovers a range of Meinl cymbals as diverse as the drummers that inspired them

Meinl's Perfect Ride range includes contributions from some of the company's highest-profile endorsees. Each drummer involved has a clear idea of what they require in a ride, so each of the 11 cymbals in the range varies in size, weight, finish and sound.

Build

While the cymbals are not named after the drummers, their titles give away the artist behind the commission. *Rhythm* was sent nine of the 11: six from the Turkish-made Byzance range, and one each from their Mb20, Mb10 and Generation X ranges.

Hands On

Weighing in at almost 5kg, Chris Adler's 24" Mb20 Pure Metal ride is quite possibly the final word in metal rides. Playing on the outer regions of its diameter gives an extremely

bright and hard-sounding ping. Moving in from the edge, the influence of the bell soon shows, with a metallic note hammering through. Once the bell is reached any wash has evaporated, leaving a tinnitus-inducing clang that can be heard several streets away.

The 21" Serpents ride is built to Derek Roddy's specs. Beneath the finish, the surface is busy with lathing bands and hammer marks and a graphic of a curling serpent. It's a deft cymbal that possesses a tight stick sound and responds swiftly to changes in dynamics. The bell is more dominant, separate in tone and character to the rest of the cymbal.

Rodney Holmes's 22" Byzance Dark Spectrum ride is heavily hammered and has a spiral lathing pattern with raw cymbal showing beside the grooves. Appropriately, as the name hints at an appreciation of jazz maestro Tony Williams, it delivers a dark, lush sound that's perfect for rattling out rapid fire

triplets. Its smoky warmth extends to the bell. Also from the Byzance Dark stable is Trevor Lawrence Jr's 22" Stadium ride. Underneath it's lathed and buffed with the top minimally lathed, heavily hammered, and crowned by a large bell. The fat stick sound is surprisingly bright but also has dark and slightly trashy elements. The bell is clean yet earthy.

The 19" Byzance Dark Sky ride is the signature ride of Japanese drummer Noriaki Kumagai. Despite having one of the smaller diameters on offer, it's quite a thick and heavy cymbal. The surface is pock-marked from numerous hammer blows and has been left unfinished. It gives a high-pitched stick sound over a small amount of wash. The metallic edge that's present enables the cymbal to project without having to rely on sheer force.

German jazzier Wolfgang Haffner has his signature on 20" and 22" Byzance Jazz Club rides. Flat rides with deep hammering and

four rivets, they've been designed with lower dynamics in mind. Supremely responsive, they capture every stroke faultlessly. There's an inbuilt smoothness to them however hard or fast you play. The wash never rises above the gentle sizzle generated by the rivets, enabling the warm, woody stick sound to shine.

Shadows Fall's Jason Bittner's ride of choice is a 20" Mb10 Bell Blast ride. Featuring a prominent bell, the cymbal is medium/heavy and highly polished. Played on the bow, the cymbal is high-pitched and focused. The small amount of wash leaves sticking patterns to be reproduced cleanly. At the large bell, the cymbal cuts across pretty much anything.

Acclaimed clinician Johnny Rabb played a

big part in the design of Meinl's Generation X range. His unusual 18" Safari ride is a two-part cymbal, made up of an 18" flat ride upon which sits an inverted, crimped-edge 8" splash. Fitting the splash on top chokes the cymbals so there is very little sustain.

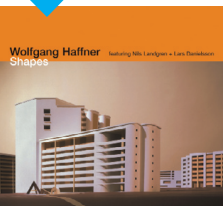
Verdict

These rides offer unquestionable insights into the inspiration and style of the signatory. They are all exceptional instruments that showcase Meinl's flair. Though the larger models carry hefty price tags, the range of prices is almost as diverse as that of the cymbals. **A**

Rating ★★★★★

The rides offer unquestionable insights into the inspiration and playing style of the signatory drummer

TRY IT WITH....



A CLASSIC RECORDING of the German jazzier so you can hear the music behind the cymbal in all its glory.



A SELECTION OF different sticks – the shape and size of the tip makes a big difference to a ride's sound.