



## **ELECTRONIC DRUM KIT**

So why an Electronic Drum Kit?

As JamPadSpace supplies all the gear and instruments for DI / Midi recording of all the instruments in the studio - to enable "pinpoint" audio to be recorded (all via the use of Headphones or IEM's) - this means that JamPadSpace is a truly Silent Studio!

However, to do this with drums, I realised an Electronic Drum Kit was required but one that also sounded really good - as good as a Pro "Mic'd Up" Acoustic Drum Kit!

However, I perceived potential apathy from Acoustic Drummers, so I designed my studio kit around the concept that the Drum Kit needed to be the very best Electronic Drum Kit out there!

I also wanted to push the Limits of just how good an Electronic Drum Kit could actually be and so with this in mind, I developed my "Monster Kit" to demonstrate just how amazing the sound of the Electronic Drum Kit is, along with ultimate customisation and flexibility that "E Drum" Kits can offer and with VST's like ToonTrack's Superior Drummer 3, as with this software, top quality sounds from all the major Drum Kit manufacturer's are now available within a laptop!

I don't believe that anything like this has been done before to this level, especially in a Pro Studio environment! I know it's a different way of doing things - innovative and pushing the limits of what can be done, but this is the 21<sup>st</sup> century after all and hopefully, the Drummers of Liverpool are going to appreciate the advantages of my Drum Kit and will also like playing it too!

I've always believed Roland was the way forward for Electronic Drums, so this kit was designed around two Roland VAD 507's and then customised further, with additional Toms, Cymbals, Pedals & upgraded Sound Modules - being 2x TD50X (one of them upgraded from a TD50).

These modules are mounted on the one stand facing in the opposite direction - so I can have easy access, as an technician to make any adjustments - as the drummers should not need access to these Sound Modules, as their control is via a VST on a Laptop (Superior Drummer 3). I've also gone to great lengths to hide and minimise the cabling to each trigger! I felt it needed to look "Pro" at every level.

The size of the kit provides flexibility to all different types of drummers, by offering numerous trigger configurations, as each trigger can be programmed to an infinite amount of percussive sounds. Therefore, providing true flexibility to all the Drummers who use the kit - as all settings can be saved as a "Favourite kit" ready for their visit to the studio!

So this means that drummers who are inspired by small kits, used by the likes of "Ringo Starr" or Mega Kits used by "Thomas Laing", or any variation in between, can be fully accommodated in the Studio with not having to change Drum Kits around.

I've configured a standard "Studio kit" in Superior Drummer 3, as a base level kit, that can then be customised and saved by each Drummer. In addition, I have "Studio Kits" for each of the following makes of Drum Kits - DW, Mapex, Ludwig, Yamaha, Tama, Pearl, Gretsch, Premier, Sonor, Rogers & Slingerland, so each drummer can "tweek and save" the kit to their desired taste.

This means that Drummers can play their chosen "Kit Manufactured" Drum kit! And as we all know, the sounds of the drum kits within Superior Drummer 3 are absolutely Awesome! So hopefully, this kit will overcome any apathy from Drummers not used to playing E Drum Kits!

The real reason why the Roland VAD 507's were chosen was because I only like drum kits in Black! (lol) Midnight Sparkle is the actual colour, as there is no choice of "Black" in the Roland VAD 706 range. Both ranges of kits, the 507's and the 706's, are almost identical, but I only really had to compromise on using a 20" Bass Drum, as opposed to the 22" Bass Drum of the VAD 706 range. So Yes, I do have a spare Roland 20" Bass Drum and I did consider making it a Double Bass Drum set up but due to space constraints, a Double Bass drum pedal set up was the way forward instead.

I chose the Duallist D4 Dual "Double Bass Drum" Pedal to give drummers that Double Bass Drum sound, without necessarily having to learn the technique - as with a traditional double pedal or having to provide a second Bass Drum.

There is also what I call a “Virtual” Bass Drum utilising two KT10 trigger pedals to provide that Double Bass Drum Sound, therefore providing a choice of two different sounding Double Bass Drums, one being the traditional Kick Drum with the “Duallist” pedal and the other being the “Virtual” Bass Drum, with two KT10's.

I've also used Black “Drum Tec” Real Feel 3 Ply heads for all the Toms, as I believe that these Drum Heads provide the best feel, that is very similar to an Acoustic Drum Head.

I also kept the Bass Drum Heads as supplied with original Roland Heads and also the original White Roland Heads for the snare drums. So, all Black Toms & Bass Drum, with Chrome coloured Snare Drums with White Heads! That's the “Sheldon” in me! (lol)

A PDA 100 Tom (Tom 7) is also linked into one of the Virtual Bass Drum KT10 pedals, so the Bass Drum sound, from the KT10 can be triggered, using the drummer's right hand on the PDA 100 (a Gong Drum?!), thereby providing flexibility in playing styles.

Additionally, another two KT10 trigger pedals are used to trigger a Cowbell, along with a further BT1 for triggering the cowbell or any other sound for that matter, with the right hand. So double cowbells with feet or Right Hand!

I also provide the Drum Sticks, as I can't allow drum sticks that have been used on Acoustic Cymbals (having been shredded on metal cymbals), to be used on the Roland Rubber Cymbals, so I have provided two sets of 7 pairs of varying styles of drum sticks (all best suited for Electronic Drums) to suit individual Drummers, in a stick bin - which is actually a Floor Tom from a junior kit!

The kit also utilises a VST for the drum sounds. ToonTrack's Superior Drummer 3 running on a Mac Book Pro, is used in order to provide drummers with their chosen kit manufacturers, along with the awesome original Drum Kit Samples! An external 1TB SSD is used for the SDX's and a further SSD for Backup.

The 4ch Audio Mixer is used to combine the sound output of SPD3, the SPD SX Pro, the Tama Rhythm Watch (for an exclusive click for the drummer) and Bluetooth input for Play Along Songs. This is then sent to the Roland HS5 Session mixer for IEM monitoring along with the other Band members.

I provide KZ AS10 IEM's and Roland V-Moda VMH-D1 headphones for monitoring the combined Drum Kit sounds along with the rest of the Band sounds too.

The JHS SD1 Pro-Rhythm Drum Synth, was my first “E Drum” back in 1982! Yes...it still works! It provides that original 80's “SYN Drum” sound!

Other kit used within the kit set up are a Focusrite Clarett 2 Pre Thunderbolt Audio Interface, a Pearl Throne Thumper and a Boss VE500 for vocal effects.

Finally, if anyone was wondering, the Drum Kit is “preset” due to all the “set” camera angles for Live Streaming and also the way it is all wired up with hidden cables. When I set the kit up - I did so with the average “Drummer in mind”. Therefore, guest Drummers can “Alter & Adjust” the kit but they can't “Add or Remove” anything.

However, they get an awesome sounding Drum Kit that they can be use as much or as little of the kit as they wish and also to their chosen kit manufacturer!

I appreciate that this is a limitation but any “Pro” Drummer should be able to play any kit presented to them and most have to, at small gig venues, where the Back Line, Drums and PA are provided. So I'm hoping that it should not become an issue?!

So thats the Kit...I think its innovative, pushes the boundaries of what can be done with E Drum Kits, provides Flexibility with saved kits, ease of use with no setting up time and provides the Most Amazing and Awesome Drum sounds from most of the major Drum Manufacturers via Superior Drummer 3!

Remember that your first booking includes a free session (for all musicians) for up to 3 hours, to try out the kit and get your sound saved for future sessions!