



Bosphorus[®]
ONE MAN • ONE HAMMER • ONE CYMBAL[™]



NOT EVERYONE HEARS IT.



From the "Cradle of Cymbalization"™

I traveled to Istanbul to see first hand how our cymbals are made, and to meet the craftsmen who make them. The Bosphorus staff consists of three Master cymbalsmiths, 12 assistants and an administrator. Hasan Seker, Ibrahim Yakici and Hasan Ozdemir (affectionately known as Ride, Crash, and Splash) really are artisans of the highest order, and own Bosphorus Cymbals International. They've been hand-making cymbals since they were in their teens. They learned by mentoring with masters in a tradition going back for centuries. Only the administrator, Kadri, speaks English—he was my interpreter and guide for the trip. On to the factory, the first thing I noticed was how primitive everything was. Huge piles of coal, oak logs, raw copper...all stowed in the earthen floor foundry. In the large casting room copper and tin are melted over coal fires. For forming they use a wood-burning furnace (visualize a prehistoric pizza-oven).

The hammering is done in a small room in the rear of the factory. This is where the magic happens. The men sit in a circle, on short stools, hammering each cymbal. I thought of the thousands of hammer blows before we play the cymbal once. It was moving to see the craftsmen work.

What I really wanted to know was what gives Bosphorus Cymbals their unique characteristics. When played, they seem softer to the touch, though they can really open up. I can flex them in my hand, yet breakage is not a problem. I wanted to know, is it the "secret ingredient" added to the copper and tin? Is it the coal or wood fires? Could it be the water-from the Bosphorus itself? The Masters smiled at my questions and assured me it was, in their words, "the mastery" that made the difference. In other words, the defining Bosphorus sound is simply the artistry of the men who create them, completely by hand, one at a time.

Michael Vosbein



Michael Vosbein,
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Molten cymbal bronze being poured into molds that look like tiny skillets.



The hammering room. Three men working the cymbals with nothing more than a hammer. It was moving to see the magic happen.



A cymbal being hand-turned on a cold-war era lathe. Notice the thread of bronze flying from the cymbal above the craftsman's hand.



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Master Series



The search for vintage cymbals has finally ended...

The search for vintage cymbals has finally ended. Like all Bosphorus Cymbals, the Master Series are completely hand made. From the casting process through the final hammering, not one step is relegated to a machine. The alloy is from an ancient formula passed down by many generations of cymbalsmiths. It gives these instruments a soft, "played-in" feel. Most importantly, the Master Series are much thinner than today's heavier weighted cymbals. You'll see the characteristic "wobble" made by the cymbal's edge when played. Listen for the woody stick sound and the deep mysterious tone. Feel the dark warm spread underneath. Unlock your creative potential and explore new levels of expression with genuine hand-crafted musical instruments from Bosphorus.

	Crash	Ride	Flat Ride	Hi-Hats
Weights	★	★	★	★
Size 13				●
14				●
18	●			
19		●	●	
20		●	●	
21		●	●	
22		●	●	

Traditional Series

Antique Series



Find your voice, then customize it. These instruments reflect the famous history of classic Turkish cymbal-making at its finest. They also represent the widest collection of sounds in our catalog. With rides, crashes, splashes, chinas, sizzles and flats, let your imagination guide you. Cymbals from this series are diverse enough to be used in intimate concert halls or aggressive rock arenas. Their sounds range from dark, delicate and complex, to bright, sharp, and penetrating. Regardless of the setting, these cymbals will inspire you to new levels of creativity.

Weights	Splash	Crash	Ride	Flat Ride	China	Hi-Hats
	★	PT, T, MT	T, MT, M	★	★	D, C, B
Size 8	●					
9	●					
10	●					
11	●					
12	●					
13						●
14						●
15		●				●
16		●			●	
17		●				
18		●			●	
19			●	●		
20			●	●	●	
21			●	●		
22			●	●		

The Antique Series marries the classic brilliance of our Traditional Series and the dry primal quality of our Turk Series. The top side features an unlathed bell and an additional unlathed strip between the bell and the edge. The bottom side of the cymbal is completely lathed in the traditional manner. The rides express clean articulation and ample but controlled overtones. The crashes produce a slightly mellowed tone with a quick decay. Artists willing to experiment will love the many textures available from the varied playing surfaces.

Weights	Crash	Ride	Hi-Hats
	PT, T	T	D
Size 13			●
14			●
16	●		
18	●		
20		●	
22		●	

Weight Key:

PT=Paper Thin, T=Thin, MT=Medium Thin, M=Medium, D=Dark, C=Crisp, B=Bright ★=One Weight Only

New Orleans Series

Turk Series



Evoking the spirit of the Crescent City, this series feels as good on a jazz kit as it does with a contemporary setup. These cymbals are completely hand hammered in the traditional manner, then wide-lathed on top and bottom in a continuous spiral from bell to outer edge. The distinctive lathing produces focused, woody ride sounds and quick, dry crashes. The perfect choice for a studio environment.

Weights	Crash Ride Hi-Hats		
	T	★	D
Size 14			●
16	●		
18	●		
20		●	
21		●	
22		●	



Hand hammered but completely unlathed. The Turk Series is characterized by its exotic stick sound and reduced overtones. Visually stunning with straight from the oven coloration. A dark primary voice or a daring addition to a conventional setup. This series speaks with raw attitude and earthy passion.

Weights	Ride Flat Ride Hi-Hats		
	T	★	D
Size 13			●
14			●
20	●	●	
22	●	●	

Gold Series

Versa Series



Ignacio Berroa

"Gonzalo Rubicalba",
"Chick Corea",
Independent

Handmade cymbals with a modern sound. Bright, crisp and clean without sounding harsh or brittle. The Gold series fuses the "old world" warmth of handmade cymbals with the cutting power, projection, and durability needed in contemporary settings. Each Gold Series cymbal is completely hand hammered, then buffed to a brilliant finish. The weights of the rides offer maximum response with plenty of projection. The crashes are explosive and cutting, yet warm and musical. The hats offer a bright chick sound with a brilliant splash. The Gold Series is an ideal choice when bold and powerful cymbals are required.

	Crash	Ride	Hi-Hats
Weights	F, P	★	★
Size 14			●
16	●		
17	●		
18	●		
20		●	
22		●	

Designed by Grammy award winning drummer Ignacio Berroa, the Versa Series adds a touch of salsa to our palate of sounds. Jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie best described Ignacio as "...the only Latin drummer in the world, in the history of American Music, that knows both worlds; his native Afro-Cuban as well as Jazz..." The half-lathed ride offers two playing surfaces. The buffed flat ride is shimmering magic. An 18" crash and 14" hats complete his setup. As the name Versa implies, this series is designed to be as versatile as "Igg" himself.

	Crash	Ride	Flat Ride	Hi-Hats
Weights	★	★	★	★
Size 14				●
18	●			
20		●	●	

Weight Key:
F= Fast, P=Power, ★=One Weight Only

Hammer Series



Jeff Hamilton

"Diana Krall",
"Clayton Hamilton Jazz Orchestra",
"Jeff Hamilton Trio"

Developed by respected veteran jazz artist and Bosphorus co-owner Jeff Hamilton, this series captures the essence of Jeff's highly musical cymbal sound. The hammered bell is slightly smaller than our Traditional Series, but speaks with distinction. The bowed profile gradually tapers to a thin edge. The rides are sensitive enough for a jazz trio, but dig in and you can carry a large ensemble. Crash the 22" ride—explosive. Ride the hats half-open—pure tone. The china can bring down the house on a medium shuffle. Jeff covers the whole spectrum with these.

	Ride	China	Hi-Hats
Weights	★	★	★
Size 14			●
20	●		
22	●	●	

Stanton Moore Series



Stanton Moore

"Galactic",
"Stanton Moore Trio"

These cymbals capture the funky, earthy quality of Stanton's trademark sound. The tops are traditionally lathed with warm tonal grooves, while the bottoms are lathed with the distinctive wider ridges associated with the Bosphorus New Orleans series. The sound is 100% Stanton—raw, and aggressive, but always musical and extremely funky. The rides have great warmth, but plenty of stick definition. The hats are dark, but can really cut. The Trash Crash features uneven wobbly edges and deeply hammered pockets on the playing surface. The sound is trashy, as the name implies, but warm enough to ride on. The Pang Thang has flanged edges for piercing crashes with plenty of low end wash. Together they give Stanton the kind of balanced attack he requires as he takes traditional second line drumming into tomorrow.

	Trash Crash	Pang Thang	Wide Ride	Fat Hats
Weights	★	★	★	★
Size 14				●
20	●	●	●	
22			●	



ANDREW BORGER
"Norah Jones"



BYRAN LANDRUM
"Joey DeFrancesco"



CLAUDE COLEMAN
"Ween"



DANA HALL
"Terrell Stafford", "Jon Faddis"



DAVID KEMPER
"Bob Dylan", "L A Studios"



DENNIS MACKREL
"Hank Jones,
"Dizzy Gillespie Alumni Band"



EVAN STONE
"Aly & AJ", "Greg Adams"



FUKUSHI TAINAKA
"Lou Donaldson"



ERIK HARGROVE
"James Brown", "Ringling
Bros. Barnum & Bailey"



BILL WYSASKE
"Michael Bubl ", "Steve Tyrell"



JACOB MARSHALL
"MAE"



JAKE HANNA
Jazz Legend



JAMIE HADDAD
"Paul Simon", "Dave Liebman"



JAY LANE
"Ratdog", "Les Claypool"



TODD STRAIT
"Karrin Allyson", "Eldar"



JIM WHITE
"Crystal Gayle",
Nashville Studios



JOHNNY VIDACOVICH
"John Scofield",
"Astral Project"



RIKKI ROCKETT
"Poison"



JOHN VON OHLEN
U of Cincinnati,
"Blue Wisp Band"



KEVIN KANNER
"Annie Sellick", "Bill Holman"



KURT SODERGREN
"Big Bad Voodoo Daddy"



MARCO MENECHIN
"Liz Phair", "Aqualung"



MARK SIMMONS
"Al Jarreau"



MARTY MORELL
"Classic Bill Evans Trio"



NEAL SMITH
"Cyrus Chestnut",
"Tom Harrell"



PAULO BRAGA
"Elaine Elias"



RAMON BANDA
"Pancho Sanchez",
"Banda Bros"



RON WELTY
"The Offspring",
"Steady Ground"



RUSSELL BATISTE
"The Funky Meters"



SACHA DAOUD
"Cirque de Soliel"



SHANNON POWELL
"Harry Connick, Jr.",
"Preservation Hall"



CHUCK REDD
"Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks
Orchestra"



STEVE DAVIS
"Lynne Arriale"



TY DENNIS
"Riders On the Storm"



ZACH VELMER
"Sound Tribe Sector Nine"