Sameness and Difference
This is a guide to the eleven SABIAN cymbal series and collections, as well as those models players tell us are the hottest of the lot… the main ones, the killer sounds. The vintage AA and HH series epitomize the best of the past… their sameness with the traditional art of cymbal making makes them very special. The innovative designs of AAX, HHX, and the Vault collection define the future… the difference. Plus there are more. See and hear them all at sabian.com.
Like you, the players on the following pages have a favorite series or sound... even a favorite cymbal. But their set-up will often be a mix of different series. So when you think cymbals, think sounds... and consider combining Modern with Vintage, Bright with Dark... After all, these cymbals are designed to be combined into whatever set-up you like... whatever you want your sound to be.
WHAT’S YOUR SOUND?

We play SABIAN.
VIRGIL DONATI • CHESTER THOMPSON Genesis • JEFF ‘TAIN’ WATTS Branford Marsalis Quartet, Tain & The Ebonix • CHAD SMITH Red Hot Chili Peppers, Chickenfoot
BERNARD PURDIE Steely Dan, Aretha Franklin, Jeff Beck • RAY LUZIER Korn • DANIEL ADAIR Nickelback • TODD SUCHERMAN Styx, Brian Wilson
WHAT’S YOUR SOUND?

Imagine standing in the SABIAN Vault, surrounded by thousands of cymbals. What would you choose? Try our Cymbal Series Sound Chart. Three categories – Vintage, Modern, and Focused – contain particular types of sounds, while Vault in the Creative category contains many types of sounds. Pick from a category or a series, or choose from more than one. For a fuller range of sound, try mixing, say, HHX with AAX, AA with Vault, HH with APX. There are no rules, though some series, models and sizes may be more suitable for you than others.

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Your Best Sound

Professional cymbals are the choice of the players in this Guide, but their needs may differ from yours. If you are just getting into drumming, SBr or B8 are great choices. If you’re more serious but want to control your costs, try B8 Pro or Xs20. If you want the very best, move up to the Vintage or Modern series, or APX. And if you want something different, Vault and Paragon offer personalized concepts and innovative sounds. From the bottom to the top there are SABIAN series, sounds and prices for every player.

Start with SBr or B8 and move up. Or get into SABIAN wherever you find your sound.

Looking for new cymbals? Look for this red Killer Model button for Killer Crashes, Killer Rides, and other Killer cymbals, some of which appear in this guide. Innovative, effective, the hottest designs and sounds, these cymbals are, well… KILLER!

The Metals

SABIAN B20 bronze is the most musical and durable of all cymbal metals. A secret process lets it flex to absorb stick shock, making it the choice of players throughout this Guide. B8 bronze is ideal for tonally tight, focused sounds. Two great metals, each with its own unique type of sound.

B20 Bronze: 20% Tin, 80% Copper, traces of Silver

Metal varies depending on model, though mostly B20

B8 Bronze: 8% Tin, 92% Copper

Brass

All SABIAN cymbals are made in Canada.

Find Your Sound

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B8 Page 32
SBr Page 33

…and more

The Gig Shirt Page 36
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sabian.com Page 39

This is a Killer Crash
Get back to the 50’s, the 60’s, and the 70’s. Retro, reverto, classic… get back to the times when British beat groups powered the radio and took over TV, power and punk poured out of Detroit, soul music was a sensation, jam bands ruled the West Coast, and horn-driven jazz/rock blew power trios and psychedelia off the charts. Get back with the Vintage Bright sounds of AA.
AA is kinda like the Beatles, Cream and Hendrix. It’s from a different time, but still sounds amazing today.

Chad Smith
AA is all about classic sounds, so the Core Models for this series are those that add up to a very versatile set-up for playing virtually any music. The Medium-Thin Crash may be the most popular, but many players also choose the Thin Crash. If you want a more powerful and defined ride, try the 21" AA Raw Bell Dry Ride or AA Rock Ride. If you like the idea of your cymbals being matched by the specialists in the SABIAN Vault, consider a 'Sonically Matched' set.

- 20" Medium Ride
- 16" Medium-Thin Crash
- 18" Medium-Thin Crash
- 14" Medium Hats
- 10" Splash
- 18" Chinese
- Performance Set
- Effects Pack

See and hear all the AA models: sabian.com

Traditional automatic hammering ensures versatility and power in Vintage Bright sounds.
2. High-profile shaping raises pitch, so AA cuts through and gets you heard.
3. Small-peen hammering increases stick response and boosts energy.
4. Concentric circles of hammering build tension into the profile, for increased projection.

Natural or Brilliant Finish
Pure SABIAN 2020 Bronze: 20% Tin, 80% Copper, traces of Silver
There is something about that bright AA tone and great feel... and I can lay a beating on them and they last like you wouldn’t believe. AA has durability with that sweet sound. It’s a package made in heaven.

Gene Hoglan

Vintage Bright sounds have a history of versatility.

50s
Rock ‘n’ Roll, Skiffle, Doo-Wop, Western, Jazz, Big Band, Boogie Woogie, Latin, Rockabilly, Be-Bop...

60s
Surf, Rhythm and Blues, Soul, Blues Rock, Ska, Folk Rock, Psychedelic, Country & Western, Pop, Gospel, Garage, New Orleans...

70s

Finish: Brilliant or Natural

Sonically Matched

The bright, explosive sounds of AA cymbals are ideal for any music. And choosing a ‘Sonically Matched’ set means your sound has been selected and matched by the experts in the SABIAN Vault, the same ones who select and match cymbals for such AA-playing greats as Chad Smith, Mike Wengren, and Gene Hoglan.

Rock Performance Set
Performance Set
Metal-X Performance Set
Effects Pack
WHAT’S YOUR SOUND?

Vintage Dark Sounds

HH means hand hammered. For centuries the most musical and tonally complex cymbals have been hand hammered into shape and sound. That sound is warmer, darker... packed with tone. And it’s this low-pitched warmth and darkness that makes HH blend into the music, making it fuller, richer... more complex and interesting.

WE PLAY HH

MARK O’CONNELL Taking Back Sunday
TYLER STEWART Barenaked Ladies
STEVE FERRONE Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers
BILL WARD Black Sabbath
BERNARD PURDIE Session Great: Steely Dan, Aretha Franklin
JIMMY COBB Jazz Legend: Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Cannonball Adderley
When I’m playing the big gigs, I play really, really hard, but I don’t want metallic, I don’t want brash. With HH that vintage dark sound is always there and always warm.

Chester Thompson
Core Models

This list of Core Models highlights the most popular HH sounds. With the Vintage Dark tone of HH a popular choice for jazz, rock, the blues and beyond, the most popular models are those that offer the most versatility. HH is a traditional concept, so tradition, not innovation is what makes this such a popular choice. These models highlight the sounds drummers around the world – playing all styles – have made their favorites.

- 21” Raw Bell Dry Ride
- 16” Thin Crash
- 18” Medium-Thin Crash
- 14” Medium Hats
- 10” Splash
- 18” Thin Chinese
- Performance Set
- Effects Pack

See and hear all the HH models: sabian.com

Hand hammered legendary Vintage Dark sounds from SABIAN Master Artisans.

The signature inside the bell is Armenian for ‘SABIAN’, written by the specialist who approves the cymbal.

1. Each hammer blow increases tonal color and musical complexity.
2. Traditional wide-blade lathing accelerates tonal flow from the cymbal.
3. Low profile for deeper, darker vintage sounds.

Natural or Brilliant Finish
Pure SABIAN B20 Bronze: 20% Tin, 80% Copper, traces of Silver
It’s very musical... very special. I’ve played HH for years... for funk, jazz, rock... everything in the studio, on stage... everywhere.  

---

Steve Ferrone

**Did You Know?**

In the 1970s, master hand hammering artisans from Istanbul, Turkey, moved to Meductic, where they created the HH series. Today, our master hammering artisans continue the traditional art of the hand hammered cymbal.

**Hand Hammering**

Hammering shapes the cymbal and its sound, with each blow increasing the tonal richness and complexity of that sound.

**Hand Lathing**

Lathing cuts away the raw surface of a cymbal, creating grooves through which vibrations travel and generate tone.

---

**Sonically Matched**

When you invest in HH cymbals you are choosing the world’s finest hand hammered sounds. When you select a ‘Sonically Matched’ prepack, your set-up has been personally selected by the specialists in the SABIAN Vault.

---

**Jeff ‘Lo’ Davis**

Gospel Great

**Shawn Drover**

Megadeth

**Harvey Mason**

Session Great: Fourplay

**Joey Heredia**

SABIAN Cymbals

---

**Performance Set**

**Effects Pack**

---
Modern Bright Sounds

Tap it. Thrash it. With its ‘Dynamic Focus’ design delivering total response accuracy at every volume, only AAX lets you work all the dynamic levels, from low volume to high, with total control. In the studio or on stage, in every style of music, only AAX delivers such consistently bright, crisp, clear, and cutting responses. AAX is the ultimate Modern Bright sound.

Dynamic Focus

The first modern B20 cymbal design concept, ‘Dynamic Focus’ delivers total control by eliminating volume threshold and distortion. The bright attack, the shimmering sustain, and the ability of AAX to perform with excellence at all volumes lets your playing shine.

WE PLAY AAX
The arrival of AAX changed everything. It’s so efficient, so effective, so modern.

Daniel Adair
This AAX Core Models list makes it easier for you to find the best cymbals for your sound, style and budget. Among the innovative models in this series are the X-Plosion Crash with its fast and full response, and the punchy X-Treme Chinese. Combining a Studio Crash with a slightly heavier Stage Crash is a great way to increase the dynamic range of your set-up.

- 20" Stage Ride
- 21" Raw Bell Dry Ride
- 16" Studio Crash
- 16" Stage Crash
- 16" X-Plosion Crash
- 18" X-Plosion Crash
- 14" Stage Hats
- 14" X-Celerator Hats
- 8" Splash
- 10" Splash
- 18" Chinese
- 19" X-Treme Chinese
- Stage Performance Set
- Effects Pack

See and hear all the AAX models: sabian.com

'Dynamic Focus' design delivers shimmering Modern Bright responses at all volumes.

1. Hand-guided, high-pressure hammering for instant response.
2. Hand-cut, pinpoint lathing maximizes sensitivity for increased dynamic range.
3. High-profile shape for brighter, more explosive and cutting responses.
4. Various designs, some including raw bell or holes, for wide range of sounds.

Natural or Brilliant Finish
Pure SABIAN B20 Bronze: 20% Tin, 80% Copper, traces of Silver.
"AAX is a secret weapon. Tap it or slam it, it always delivers. I mix AAX and APX. Now that’s a wicked combo!" Ray Luzier

Sonically Matched

Matched for optimum performance compatibility by the specialists in the SABIAN Vault, ‘Sonically Matched’ sets let you play a great sounding set of cymbals… right out of the box.

Like HHX, AAX contains many Killer models and sounds. The X-Plosion Crash, X-Celerator Hats, Raw Bell Dry Ride, O-Zone Crash, Fusion Hats, X-Treme Chinese, Memphis Ride... all innovative AAX designs.

Finish: Brilliant or Natural
Modern Dark Sounds

Until HHX it was impossible to project darkness. But the dark, simmering sound, agitated bite and ‘Tone Projection’ design of HHX makes this series more effective. Some other cymbals may generate darkness, but HHX stirs up more simmering heat, more musical dirt, more of what drummers want to hear, and projects it. That projection makes a huge difference. It’s called ‘Tone Projection.’

Tone Projection, like waves of light, shoots hot, simmering darkness through the music and across the distance. It gets you heard. And felt. HHX Tone Projection is an innovative design, created by the SABIAN Vault Team.

NIR Z Sessions: John Mayer, Chris Cornell • TOMAS HAAKE Meshuggah • MIKE PORTNOY Dream Theater • RODNEY HOWARD Avril Lavigne

WE PLAY HHX
Other cymbals may be dark, but HHX cuts... and when you’re playing with a loud band or to a big audience HHX ‘Tone Projection’ is what it takes to get your tone heard.

Tomas Haake
This list of Core Models highlights the most popular HHX sounds. This Modern Dark sounding series contains many innovative designs, with some, like Evolution, Legacy and Groove models, the multi-held O-Zone Crash and the X-Celerator Hats highlighting the diversity of darkness within this series. So you may want to try those as well as the models listed here.

- 20" Stage Ride
- 20" Evolution Ride
- 16" Stage Crash
- 18" X-Plosion Crash
- 16" Evolution Crash
- 18" Evolution O-Zone Crash
- 14" Stage Hats
- 14" Evolution Hats
- 10" Splash
- 10" Evolution Splash
- 18" Chinese
- 14" Evolution Mini Chinese
- Performance Set
- Evolution Performance Set
- Effects Pack

See and hear all the HHX models: sabian.com

Exclusive 'Tone Projection' design delivers simmering Modern Dark tone at all volumes.

1. The raw, hammered bell boosts 'Tone Projection' power.
2. Pin-point lathing increases sensitivity for greater dynamic range.
3. High-profile shape boosts projection.
4. Jumbo-size hammering deepens tone for increased darkness and bite.

Natural or Brilliant Finish
Pure SABIAN B20 Bronze:
20% Tin, 80% Copper, traces of Silver.
The magic of HHX is the darkness that allows me to go places I wasn’t able to go before. These cymbals inspire me to play great because they always sound great… anywhere.

Dom Famularo
Creative Sounds

Vault is a Collection of Cymbals and Sounds. Named after The Vault, the center of SABIAN design, this collection is about very different concepts, looks, sounds. Each piece is unique, with many created in collaboration with major names including Bozzio, Calhoun, and Portnoy… while Paragon is a powerful yet dynamic range designed with legendary Rush drummer Neil Peart. Vault and Paragon: Creative designs for creative players.

Vault is authentic artistic expression... bold, unique and innovative ideas rooted in a deep understanding of sonic engineering.

Jojo Mayer

NEW PARAGON BRILLIANT

WE PLAY VAULT

— WILL CALHOUN Living Colour • DAVID GARIBALDI Tower of Power • JEFF ‘TAIN’ WATTS Stanford Marsalis Quartet, Tain & The Ebonix
— MIKE PORTNOY Dream Theater • JACK DEJOHNETTE Jazz Great: Miles Davis; Bitches Brew, Keith Jarrett, Special Edition • TERRY BOZZIO
SABIAN has done more to advance the art of cymbal making than anyone else in the past 400 years of cymbal making history. 

Sonically Matched pre-packs let you choose or augment your set-up with cymbals matched by the specialists in the SABIAN Vault, who also design sounds for the drummers whose cymbals feature in this Vault collection.

Unlike other series, where there are variations on a particular type of sound – like Vintage Bright or Modern Dark – the Vault Collection is a wide range of sounds while Paragon delivers dynamically big responses. So let your imagination run wild. The Artisan Ride and Crash are classic vintage darkness; the V-Crash is sheer brightness; and the Crossover Ride sounds sensational.

For power with dynamics, try Paragon.

See and hear all the Vault and Paragon models: sabian.com

Vault
- 22” Artisan Ride Medium
- 21” Crossover Ride
- 16” Artisan Crash
- 16” V-Crash
- 14” Artisan Hats
- 9” Max Splash
- 17” Devastation Chinese
- Mid Max Stax

Paragon
- 22” Ride
- 16” Crash
- 18” Crash
- 14” Hats
- 10” Splash
- 19” Chinese
- Complete Set

Sonically Matched
‘Sonically Matched’ pre-packs let you choose or augment your set-up with cymbals matched by the specialists in the SABIAN Vault, who also design sounds for the drummers whose cymbals feature in this Vault collection.

DESIGNED WITH MIKE PORTNOY
- High Max Stax
- Mid Max Stax
- Low Max Stax
- Max Splash Set

DESIGNED WITH NEIL PEART
- Paragon Complete Set-up
- Paragon Performance Set
- Paragon Effects Pack
- Paragon Splash ‘n’ Stacker Pack
At last, Xs20 Brilliant Finish… at a Brilliant Price.
This is the cymbal nobody else could make. With Xs20 the SABIAN Vault Team created the first and only mid-priced high quality B20 bronze cymbal series… cymbals that deliver the look, the feel, and the sound of much more expensive cymbals. Now also available in Brilliant Finish, Xs20 is all about getting as close as possible to a professional cymbal… without the professional price.

Core Models

This list of Core Models highlights the most popular Xs20 sounds. With Xs20, creating a serious set-up at a surprisingly nice price is what it’s all about. A ride, a crash or two, hi-hats, a splash, and a Chinese cymbal make for a classic set-up. Most of these are available with a Performance Set and Effects Pack. And because they’re ‘Sonically Matched’ in the SABIAN Vault, you know your sound will happen right out of the box.

- 20" Medium Ride
- 16" Medium-Thin Crash
- 18" Medium-Thin Crash
- 14" Medium Hats
- 10" Splash
- 18" Chinese
- Performance Set
- Effects Pack

Get into Xs20 with ‘Sonically Matched’ pre-packs and feel good knowing your cymbals have been individually selected and matched for optimum performance by the specialists in the SABIAN Vault.
Some say APX is a cymbal that eats guitars. We believe it. Designed to cut through blistering 6-string riffing, APX slices through all that high-powered amplification. But more than that, the bright and focused sound of APX is great for any music – from rock to fusion – where sheer cut is desired. And if the rip-your-face-off blast of the APX Crash isn’t convincing enough, you’d better check your hearing!
This list of Core Models highlights the most popular APX sounds. This professional series is all about intensely bright, focused and cutting sounds, and the models here deliver on all counts. If your playing is harder, heavier, and louder, consider APX Solid models, which are more powerful. But if you want versatile cymbals with focused cutting power at all dynamics, check into these Core Models.

- 20” Ride
- 16” Crash
- 18” Crash
- 14” Hats
- 10” Splash
- 18” Chinese
- Performance Set

See and hear all the APX models: sabian.com
The glow of Brilliant Finish uni-rolled bronze gives B8 Pro a high-gloss, ready-for-the-stage look that makes this series a real deal in every sense. Bright, tonally focused sounds. A wide range of models. Brilliant looks that kill. And prices that save you from settling for anything less. Designed and crafted by the SABIAN Vault Team for players moving up in the world of quality bronze cymbals, B8 Pro delivers more for less.
These SABIAN Core Models are the most popular, and may be exactly what you need to create your B8 Pro set-up. Of course there are other B8 Pro models to choose from, but these are the ones drummers choose the most. You can add them one at a time, or start with a B8 Pro Performance Set – 20" Ride, 16" Crash, 14" Hats – and add to that… all in Brilliant Finish.

- 20" Medium Ride
- 16" Thin Crash
- 18" Medium Crash
- 14" Hats
- 10" Splash
- 18" Chinese
- Performance Set
- Effects Pack

See and hear all the B8 Pro models: sabian.com
Core Models

This list of Core Models highlights the most popular B8 sounds. A ride, crash and hi-hats - available individually or in the B8 Performance Set -- make the ideal set-up. To this you can add another crash in a different size. For effects, try a chinese and a splash, both in the Effects Pack.

- 20" Ride
- 16" Thin Crash
- 18" Medium Crash
- 14" Hats
- 10" Splash
- 18" Chinese
- Performance Set
- Effects Pack
- First Pack
- 2-Pack

See and hear all the B8 models: sabian.com

Get into SABIAN with Bronze

When you’re ready for bronze cymbals, B8 is ready for you. Precision formed, hammered, and lathed for pure, tonally tight sounds, B8 is the bright, cutting sound of pure bronze… at a low price that makes your first move into this precious metal an easy one.

- Complete Set
- First Pack
- 2-Pack
- Splash ‘n’ Stacker Pack
- Effects Pack
- Performance Set
- Rock Set

Bright Sounds
Get into SABIAN with Brass

Your very first step into cymbals is a big one. But SBr makes it easy. With its hammered and lathed surface and tightly focused sounds of pure brass, SBr comes at a very nice price. Stamped with the SABIAN logo, the looks and sounds of this series put it in a class of its own. SBr is brass cymbals at their finest.

Core Models

This list of Core Models makes it easier for you to find the cymbals you need to create your SBr set-up. The most popular models – and the real core models for a set-up – are the ride, crash and hi-hats. These are available in the SBr Performance Set, which, because the cymbals are matched for sound by the specialists in the SABIAN Vault, is an ideal starting point.

- Performance Set
- First Pack
- 2-Pack

See and hear all the SBr models: sabian.com
WHAT’S YOUR SOUND?

Meet some of the SABIAN crew…

ROY GRANT - Master Hand Hammering Artisan - Since 1987
SCOTT WELLWOOD - Logo Printing - Since 2000
RICKY ELLEGODD - Master Lather - Since 1986
TERRY VEYSEY - Bronze Alloy Fabrication Specialist - Since 1989
GREGORY HARVEY - Master Lather - Since 1992
CHARLIE BROWN - Master Hand Hammering Artisan - Since 1982
Innovative Ideas are Nothing without skilled design and craftsmanship to turn them into cymbals and sounds. That is the real art of cymbal making. It takes innovative design, skilled craftsmanship, and a sense of pride, daring and adventure to improve traditional sounds and create new concepts. It takes real people.

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