Slipknot's Clown - Upclose

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2009 New Products
Since 1883, Gretsch drums have been deeply integrated into all aspects of the music industry. From capturing the attention of legendary drummers, to having the distinction of being the select choice for top tier recording studios, to providing the casual drum enthusiast with a value-filled drum set option, Gretsch drums have always set the standard for sonic excellence.

For 2009, Gretsch drums will continue to expand on our uncompromising standards and "That Great Gretsch Sound." We are excited to offer an enhanced product line up that highlights our distinctive heritage. As a showcase, we will rekindle vintage graphic features and add new finishes to the USA Custom series. Gretsch vintage enthusiasts will associate these updates as classic and enduring. At the same time, we continue to keep a keen eye on the needs of the contemporary drummer. Our 2009 overall product offering has been tweaked and augmented to satisfy the needs demanded by the next wave of great Gretsch drummers.

Our commitment to the contemporary drummer is demonstrated by our cover story on Slipknot’s M. Shawn Crahan, complete with his “235 pounds of go.”

As we embark on our 126th year in the drum business, Gretsch will continue to offer drums that are founded on our traditions, while maintaining a contemporary vision. We are intrigued with what the future will bring - one thing is certain, we’ll continue to provide “That Great Gretsch Sound” to connect drummers to music to life.

### 2009 USA Custom Graphic Changes

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### 2009 USA Custom New Finishes

- **Gloss Piano White**
- **Gloss Piano Black**
- **Vintage Oyster White**
- **Satin Natural Maple**
- **Satin Tobasco**
In the 1950's and early 1960's Gretsch offered a distinctive diamond-shaped color pattern called Harlequin. This pattern featured a distinctive red/black, two-toned color pattern that is known by Gretsch enthusiasts as an innovative, bold and striking finish from one of Gretsch's pinnacle eras. In 2009, Gretsch USA Custom will reactivate the Harlequin pattern and expand color choices beyond the classic red/black color combination. Made to the demanding USA Custom specifications, these drums drip every pure ounce of "That Great Gretsch Sound" to match their alluring and bold visual appeal. Harlequin will be available in all Nitro Cellulose lacquer colors and with Curly maple.

MBJ684-HQG
Modern Bop 4pc Kit
Harlequin Curly Sun Amber Gloss Lacquer

Features:
- Limited to 25 kits worldwide
- Gold drum hardware
- Gretsch USA Custom 6-ply maple shells
- Fiberskyn BD resonant head
- Coated resonant tom heads

Sizes:
- 16" x 18" Bass Drum
- 8" x 12" Tom
- 14" x 14" Floor Tom
- 5.5" x 14" 8 Lug Snare
Available in two newly offered retro finishes, Vintage Oyster White Nitron and Sky Blue Pearl, Gretsch USA Custom's Classic Bop kit features special vintage appointments. Crafted in the USA Custom drum shop, this kit echoes vintage, 1960's-era style and performance. Contemporary features including GTS tom suspension mount, foldout/telescoping bass drum spurs and G9025 tom and FT leg brackets enhance overall performance attributes. The Classic Bop drum set includes a host of vintage custom options that dresses this kit in full retro style.

Features:
- Vintage Oyster White or Sky Blue Pearl Nitron
- Includes retro options:
  - BD mount plate
  - Single tom arm
  - BD T-Rods
  - Fiberskyn BD resonant head with offset logo
  - Snap-In drum key holder
  - Coated resonant heads

Sizes:
- 14" x 18" Bass Drum
- 8" x 12" Tom
- 14" x 14" Floor Tom
- 4.5" x 14" Snare

(SBP) Sky Blue Pearl
When Shawn Crahan – widely known as “Clown”, the barbarous percussionist for freak-metal sensations Slipknot – was a young boy he had some anger issues. A bit of a raging temper, in fact. There were family problems, problems that he was too young to understand and much too young to properly process. The doctors urged medication. All kinds of medication. But Crahan’s mother blocked her son from the barrage of prescriptions, sure that there was another more natural solution.

Eventually, the doctors realized young Crahan needed direction, a constructive outlet for his energy, something to absorb his swelling emotions without causing too much damage. They asked if he’d ever wanted to play a musical instrument.

“Drums!” The answer was instantaneous. A life of drumming progressed quickly from there for young Crahan. Before long he owned his first drum set and less than a week later he was haphazardly dousing those new cymbals in lighter fluid, sending them ablaze in a roar of violence and glory.

The violence and glory reached all-time highs with Slipknot. As co-founder and percussionist, Clown has piloted his band of masked mutants to platinum successes, all while maintaining his artistic integrity and destroying lots and lots of drums.

“When we originally formed Slipknot we tried using real drums but it was just too much,” recalls Crahan in a sedate and thoughtful tone. “They always broke and never sounded good. We were throwing drums at each other and off the stage and it was way too difficult to keep things in tune and in working condition.”

So they resorted to Crahan’s welding and sculpting abilities, resulting in a variety of custom drum materials – from titanium to carbon fiber – that could better endure Slipknot’s onstage brutalities. The drums held up, for the most part, but the sound suffered. At one point Crahan even had to resort to using triggers on stage, an experience he deems as “the worst representation of drums known to man.”

Something had to change.

“For All Hope is Gone [Roadrunner 2008] I decided to sacrifice some of the theatrics in order to do what is most important for me at this stage in my career, which is get my musicianship out. I wanted to use real drums on this tour. And to be able to play real drums made of real wood in the craftsmanship of Gretsch, it’s night and day from what I played before. I’m really happy with it. It’s a rich full sound like we had before we signed.”

It required some ingenuity to bring natural drums to the Slipknot stage, as evidenced by the welded “exoskeletons” protecting Clown’s unconventional rig. But the extra effort was worth it as the true, musical sounds that helped birth the band have returned to the live performances.
And despite the vast improvements that his new drums bring to his performance, Crahan is still unsettled. He’s now at an artistic crossroads where he’s happy, yet not satisfied. The band’s drum set player, Joey Jordison, certainly casts a large shadow, but Crahan’s restlessness seems more about fulfilling an artistic desire that still pulls at him on a daily basis.

“There are only so many years of my career that I want to be known as somebody who stands up and plays a part every once in a while,” he offers. “I feel very honored to be able to play with Joey for as many years as I have. It’s made me a better drummer, a better musician, a better artist. Try playing for ten years with one of the world’s greatest metal drummers of all time. You learn an incredible amount.

“But I’m only one-ninth of the entity that is Slipknot and the position I created for myself in that band is very limited, especially playing alongside a drummer of Joey’s caliber. So I’ve been waiting my whole life to get my musical vision out, where I have more to do with the structure of the songs, the keys of the songs, these sorts of things.”

That time is now.

Crahan now finds himself back behind the drum set — sitting down! — laying truly unique and tasteful grooves for his new band Dirty Little Rabbits. It all got started when a friend introduced him to Michael Pfaff, himself a jazz drumming virtuoso, and the two sat down to jam.

“When we got together to jam [Pfaff] levitated towards the keys and I got on the kit and we went into outer space, places I’ve never been with any other musician in this world. Most people that I jam with think inside the box and I tend to think outside the box. I don’t have any rules. I’m pretty infamous for doing 5-bar measures and most people think I can’t count when in reality I just want to play a 5-bar measure. He was one of the first people I played with who got that.

“Slipknot has helped me immensely in my counting and my understanding of timing and structure and everything, really. It’s prepared me to open up the other side of my brain and let go. And because of that experience I’m very comfortable letting go and letting the muse take me away.”

The muse carries Crahan and his DLR band mates far beyond the edges of predictability as they twist the rules and pummel the boundaries of conventional song craft.

“My soul speaks to me in a way that fundamental music does not,” says Crahan. “I’m not interested in mimicking, copying or following any kind of path of what’s been done before me. And with this project I’m able to make music from my heart and my soul without any explanation. It’s very rewarding because it’s something unique.

“When we’re up there playing, everything is from my heart. I don’t need monitors, I don’t need to hear the singer or the guitar player or anyone. I know the song because it’s from my soul. There’s nobody in the world who plays drums like I do. I’m my own thing. I have a lot of tricks up my sleeve that I’ve incorporated into my playing to establish my own style.”

Crahan has never been the type to woodshed in the basement, practicing a big fill over and over until it’s perfect. He believes that mentality causes a discerning predictability that is all too rampant in today’s music. So he’s always focused more on feeling than technique. And now it all comes together.

“I took lessons, against my will, when I first started playing but I’m basically self-taught. Technique never interested me, I’m all about feeling. And somewhere along the way I learned dynamics. I get lots of different sounds out of my drums and cymbals.

“And the tones of Gretsch drums are so real that I’m allowed to be the dynamic drummer that I need to be. When I play hard it’s like King Kong is breaking through the venue and when I have to bring it down the drums come right with me. My slogan has always been: ‘Gretsch are the only drums that can handle 235 pounds of go.’ Gretsch drums have changed my life completely.”
Gretsch New Classic - Satin Natural

The New Classic series will add Satin Natural as a new finish option for 2009. Classic and clean, this finish supports New Classic's retro visual style. In addition to its distinctive appearance, the New Classic series includes proportionate shells that increase in thickness as shell diameters increase to give a full, balanced tonality across the entire drum set. Classy appointments include vintage styled tube lugs, the very low mass "ITS" integrated tom suspension system and 9025 hinged tom and floor tom leg brackets. Die-cast hoops and Silver Sealer shell interiors are included.

NC-E824-SN shown with NC-6514S-SN snare

NC-S483-SN 3pc Bop Shell Pack: 14" x 18", 8" x 12", 14" x 14"
NC-F604-SN 4pc Groove Shell Pack: 16" x 20", 8" x 10", 9" x 12", 14" x 14"
NC-E824-SN 4pc Euro Shell Pack: 18" x 22", 8" x 10", 9" x 12", 14" x 14"

Drum Set Features
- Satin Natural Lacquer Finish
- Proportionate Gretsch-formula maple shells
- 30-degree bearing edges with slight rounded outside edge
- Silver Sealer interiors
- Low-mass vintage styled tube lugs
- Die-cast hoops on toms and snare
- Gretsch "ITS" tom mount system and chambered FT rubber leg tips
- Evans G1 coated batter and clear resonant heads
New for 2009, this Gretsch Renown Maple kit features a retro, classic rock vibe. Nothing fancy here - just the required tools to create a statement that will never go out of style – a deep groove that is the foundation for any music style. At the bottom of that groove is this Renown 16”x24” bass drum, which delivers plenty of low-end, while articulating a punch that firmly centers this BD in any music mix. The 9”x13” tom and 16”x16” floor tom offers deep, rich tones that add power and sonic force to this clean set-up. A complete line-up of add-on drums, including matching 5x14 and 6.5x14 snare drums, are available in the Renown series.
Gretsch Catalina Maple

Features:
- Maple shells with natural interiors
- Polished black drum hardware
- 6-ply shell for toms, 7-ply for bass drums, 9-ply for snares
- 45-degree bearing edges
- 2.5mm triple flanged hoops
- GTS suspension system
- Die-cast bass drum claw hooks
- Hinged tom brackets

Sizes:
- 18" x 22" Bass Drum
- 8" x 10" Tom
- 9" x 12" Tom
- 14" x 14" Floor Tom
- 6" x 14" Snare Drum
- 16" x 16" Floor Tom (Free)

MOE825PT-EBB 5pc Shell Pack with Free 16” floor tom
Ebony Lacquer with polished black hardware

Gretsch’s popular Catlina Maple series includes a new color option for 2009. This new finish features a black on black color scheme with transparent ebony lacquer and polished black hardware. A controlled amount of ebony stain is applied to the shell to allow the individual wood grain pattern to show through the clear gloss lacquer finish. This series has earned high consumer accolades for its excellent tone and outstanding value.
Gretsch Catalina Club Mini Mod

CC-M00412T-YJ – Yellow Jacket
Black satin lacquer with thin single yellow stripe

New for 2009 is the Gretsch Catalina Club “Mini Mod” Yellow Jacket finish. This set features compact sizes with a piercing “Yellow Jacket” stripe over satin black finish, the same color combination found on the potent Yellow Jacket Wasp. The compact sizes - featuring a deep and tight sound from the 20”x20” bass drum and 6”x13” snare - are excellent for the tight grooves of modern dance and funk. Black hardware and offset lug design complete the compelling visuals.

Features:
- Mahogany shells with 30-degree bearing edges and natural interior finish
- Customized satin lacquer finish
- Black hardware with offset lugs
- “Mini Mod” tight groove sizes
- Mini GTS tom suspension system
- Evans G1 batter heads

Sizes:
- 20” x 20” Bass Drum
- 8” x 12” Tom
- 12” x 14” Floor Tom
- 6” x 13” Snare Drum
Gretsch Catalina Club Jazz

CT-J484-WG – 4pc Bop Shell Pack
Walnut Glaze finish

Gretsch’s new Catalina Club Jazz kit in Walnut Glaze finish exhibits classic visual appeal while projecting a vintage, timeless tone. The shells on this kit are constructed out of mahogany and have a single exterior basswood ply to enhance the glossy walnut finish aesthetic. 30-degree bearing edges, mini Gretsch lugs and BD mounted tom holder with GTS tom suspension mount are all included. Bass drum platform lift is also included.

Features:
• Mahogany shells with 1-ply Basswood exterior and natural interior finish
• 30-degree bearing edges
• Triple-flanged 1.6mm hoops
• Mini GTS Tom Suspension System with Bullet Bumper
• Bass Drum Platform Lift
• Evans G1 coated batter heads

Sizes:
14” x 18” Bass Drum
8” x 12” Tom
14” x 14” Floor Tom
5” x 14” Snare Drum
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original  alluring  passionate

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USA Custom in New Harlequin finish
Curly Maple Sun Amber Gloss

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