

Bosphorus 18" Traditional Jazz Crash Ride Cymbal

[John E. Johnson, Jr.](#) December 5, 2010



Bosphorus cymbals are a little hard to find, mostly because they make up part of the 10% of cymbal sales that are not Paiste, Sabian, or Zildjian (“The Big Three”). But, they are out there, you just have to look.

This one is 18”, and it is classified as a jazz crash ride in the Bosphorus Traditional series, meaning that you can use it as a crash cymbal as well as a ride cymbal. So, I measured the response both ways.

Specifications

- Manufacturer Line: Traditional
- Type: Crash/Ride
- Style: Medium Thin
- Alloy: B20 – CuSn20 – 80% Copper, 20% Tin
- Diameter: 18"
- Metal Work: Hand Hammered, Hand Lathed, Buffed Finish
- Weight: 2.5 Pounds
- MSRP: \$455 USA; Street Price \$273
- [Bosphorus](#)

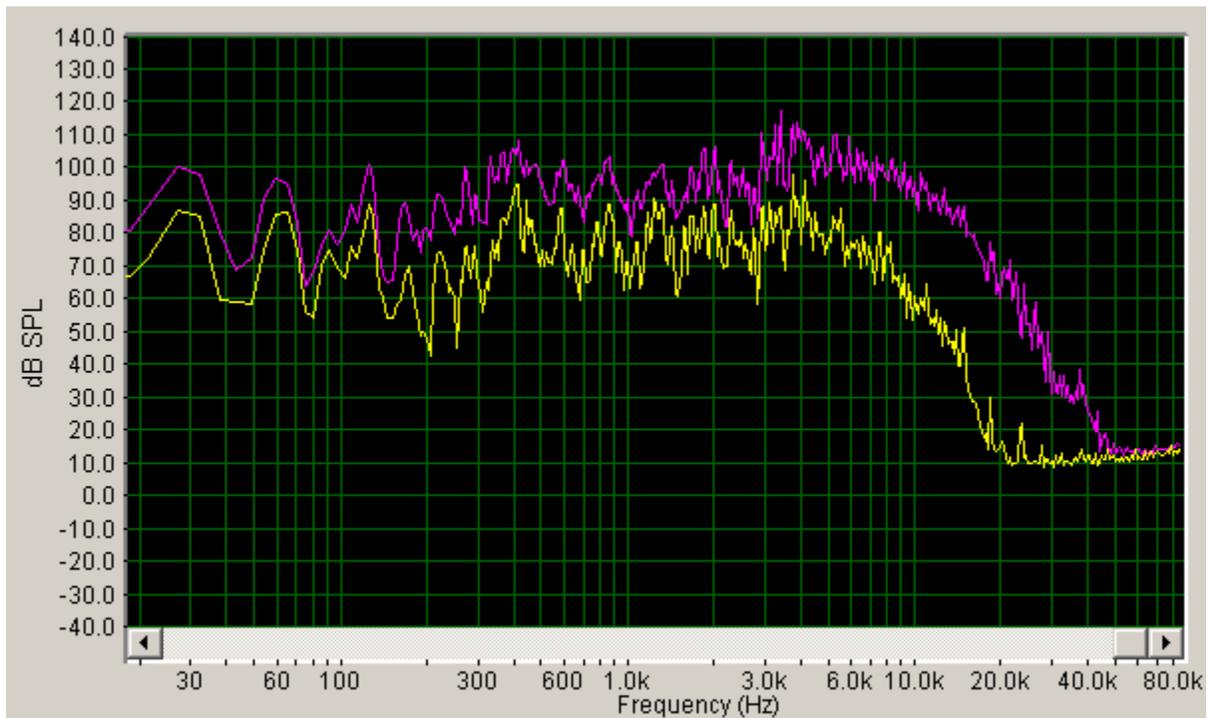
This close-up photo shows the deep lathing and irregularly spaced hammering, both of which are done by hand.

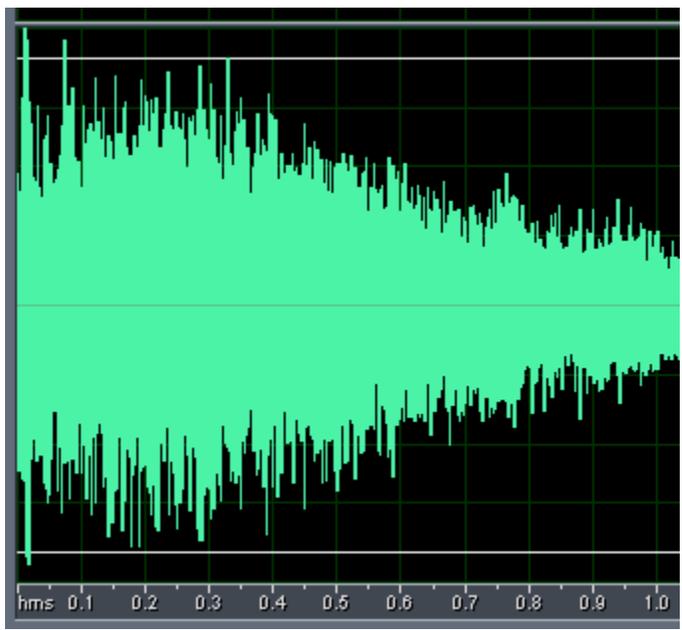
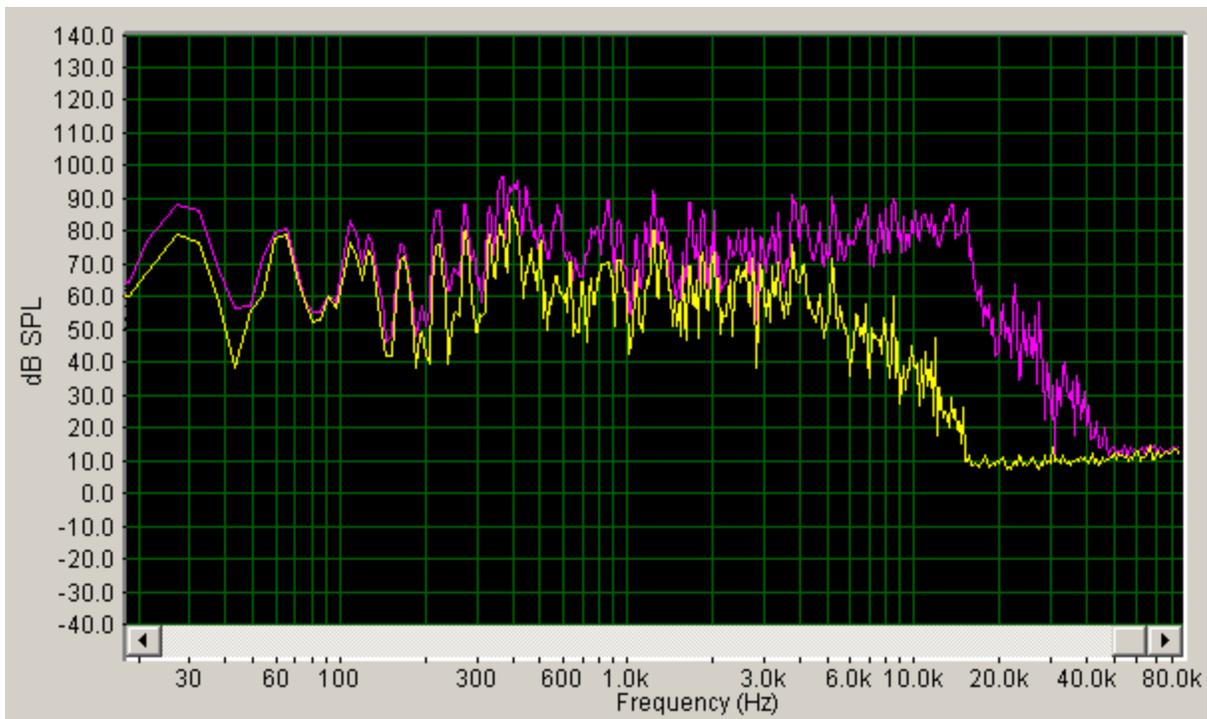


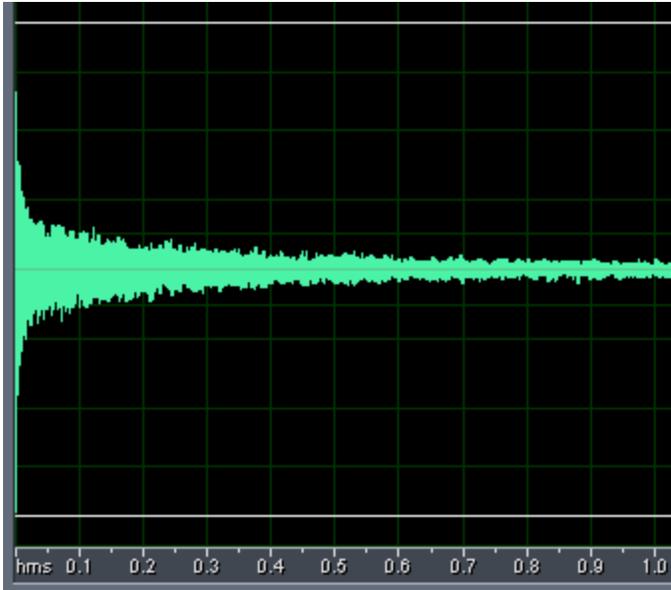
When crashed, it produces a spectrum (first spectrum shown below) out to 10 kHz, peaking at 4 kHz, and then slowly declines to about 45 kHz. The crash peaks at 0.23 seconds (first Level vs. Time spectrum, below).

When used as a ride, the ping has a slightly flatter response (second spectrum shown below), and all the way out to 15 kHz before it declines sharply. So, the ping of the ride has higher frequencies initially than the crash. I suspect this is because I used the wooden side of the stick to crash it, but the nylon tip to ride it. The ride has a shimmering wash that is quite musical and nearly as loud as the ping. That is why it is classified as a jazz cymbal, rather than a cymbal where you have to ride it hard and the ping has to cut through loud guitar amplifiers. The ping decay is shown in the second Level vs. Time spectrum, below.

This is one of the most beautiful sounding cymbals I have yet heard. I am sure that Bosphorus will say this is because it is totally hand hammered, and the person who does the hammering listens to the sound of the crash as he progresses with each set of hammer strokes, and stops when he is satisfied.







Conclusions

Although this is called a crash/ride cymbal, I consider it a crash cymbal, period, because, to me, a ride cymbal needs to be larger, e.g., 22". But, in any case, this one sounds great.