



AMEDIA

CLASSIC, THRACE, AND AHMET LEGEND SERIES CYMBALS

by Fran Azzarto

Founded in 2005, Amedia is a small family business based in Istanbul, Turkey, with a U.S. division in New Jersey. Brothers Ahmet, Saban, and Hamdusana Baykusak co-own the company, working as part of a four-man team of master cymbalsmiths that also includes Eremya Arzat. All Amedia cymbals are handmade by these four guys and their staff. For review this month, we were sent a ride, a crash, and a pair of hi-hats from three of Amedia's twenty-four lines.

CLASSIC SERIES

According to Amedia, the Classic line "embodies the classic, late-period Turkish cymbal sound." Everything from rock rides to sizzle cymbals to splashes and Chinas can be found within this series. All Classic cymbals are extensively hammered and have ultrafine lathing on the bell and multi-pass lathing on the bow.

The Classic ride we received was a 20" Jazz model. The overall sound of this fairly lightweight cymbal was bright and shimmering; the ride didn't have a lot of warm, low overtones. The bell sound was pro-

nounced and cutting, which might be a bit too much for soft, jazzy situations. At fast tempos, sticking on this cymbal was clear, never getting lost in the wash.

The 18" medium-thin Classic crash had a bright and cutting tone with a fairly quick "whoosh" sound. This model offered a lot of attack and not a lot of warmth. The 14" Classic Regular hi-hats include a medium-weight top and a heavy bottom cymbal. This pair was also bright sounding and fairly loud. When I rode on the hats in a half-open position, their roaring tone was fairly even. These guys are sure to cut through most power-pop guitars.

THRACE SERIES

Amedia's Thrace series includes brightly finished cymbals. They have the same lathed/hammered look as models in the Classic line, but they're considerably heavier in weight. The 20" ride has a large unhammered bell, which produced a medium pitch that wasn't as loud as I expected, given its size. When struck on the edge, this cymbal produced a big crash that worked well when I was slamming away during one of my band's heavier rock tunes. On quicker songs, fast 16ths played on the bow rang clear. The 18" Thrace crash was higher pitched than my usual 18" crash, and it had minimal low

overtones in the decay, making it best suited for quick, loud accents. The 14" Thrace hi-hats are some seriously heavy pieces of metal. These cymbals were all about the low end, with tons of "chomp" when I closed them with the pedal. Riding on the hats when held slightly open produced a dark, crunchy sound.

AHMET LEGEND SERIES

This line, the flagship for Amedia, is more traditional sounding and includes some of the company's best offerings. Named after founder Ahmet Baykusak, Ahmet Legends have a soft appearance, with small, light lathed grooves and fairly extensive hammering marks. The 21" ride sang with a lower pitch than the Thrace, while the stick sound was clear and tight with some warm overtones. When I really laid into this cymbal, the attack got a little lost in the wash but could be used for a cool crash/ride effect. The bell sound was clear and loud, and this bell proved to be the most useful among the three series we reviewed. This cymbal is designed more for jazz situations, but it would fit nicely in certain indie rock settings.

CONCLUSION

We tried out only three series from Amedia, but remember that the company offers twenty-four lines. Within that extensive range, almost any type of cymbal can be found. For a small, family-owned company, Amedia has a lot of big ideas that are definitely worth checking out. amediacymbals-usa.com

DARK, WARM AHMET LEGEND HI-HATS AND CRASH

The 18" Ahmet Legend crash was the warmest-sounding model in our review group, and it produced a good dark sound with a mellow decay. The hi-hats were pitched much lower than my usual cymbals, and they had a chubby stick sound. I really dug the deep, growling tone these hats produced when held a bit open.

