

MUSIC CONNECTION

EXCLUSIVE LISTS!

U.S. REHEARSAL STUDIOS
+ GEAR RENTALS

MUSICIANS

& the Struggle for Mental Health

Producer

KEN LEWIS

(Wu-Tang, Taylor Swift)

TIPS: How to Run a Successful Rehearsal

T-Pain

+ J. Cole • Cactus • Jawny • Lillias White
Bendigo Fletcher ... UNSIGNED BAND REVIEWS!

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▶ **EVANS DRUMHEADS UV HEAVYWEIGHT DRY SNARE HEAD**

Available in a 14-inch size (so far), Evans Heavyweight Dry features two plies of 10-mil film providing maximum durability, a compressed attack, and a wide dynamic range. The 3-mil Reverse Dot in the center of the head lends extra durability, focus, and attack.

Most noticeable are the precision-drilled dry vent holes around the head's perimeter that further reduce overtones and sustain. Paired along with our patented UV coating, this head is designed for the heaviest of hitters.

The Evans Drumheads UV Heavyweight Dry Snare Head sells for \$52 MSRP.

ddar.io/heavyweightdry.pr



◀ **SPITFIRE AUDIO DRUMLINE**

U.K.-based Spitfire Audio's DRUMLINE is the eighth release in their Originals sample library. DRUMLINE features the California-based Blue Devils Drumline and Bugle Corps, a world-renowned marching-band music ensemble. DRUMLINE (sans bugles) was recorded at FOX's Newman Scoring Stage in Los Angeles with the same care and outstanding recording quality as all the Spitfire sample libraries.

DRUMLINE comes bundled with its own player that gives you access to a number of free Spitfire Labs sample collections. The player has the Close (overheads), Room and Hyped microphone mixer. Room is a mix of Decca Tree, outrigger and ambient microphone arrays. The Hyped mode pitches, stretches, saturates the samples to add weight. There is a good-sounding reverb, and the Tightness control dials-in the length of the notes. There are nine presets or patches that feature approximately 1.5GB of snares, tenor drums, bass drums, and cymbals with five straightforward NKS (Native Kontrol Standard) compatible controls.

We installed DRUMLINE in Mac OS 10.15 Catalina running Logic X and it all worked the first time—we liked the player's simple and intuitive controls. For the most part, the presets are great as they come with an organic and tight sound that would work great for either a Pop production or a big score. We found no need to "fix" anything or add effects. We liked the crescendo/swell patch but we wish they could be synced to tempo.

DRUMLINE is a collaboration between the Bleeding Fingers Music composer collective (a joint venture between composer Hans Zimmer, his business partner Steve Kofsky) and Extreme Music, the production arm of Sony/ATV Music Publishing.

DRUMLINE sells for \$29 MSRP (download) and is available for AAX, AU, VST2 or 3 for MAC OSX 10.10 or later and Windows 7, 8 and 10. It also supports Native Instruments' Native Kontrol Standard.

spitfireaudio.com/originals

▼ **MINUENDO LOSSLESS EARPLUGS**

Norway-based Minuendo Lossless earplugs have a patented, adjustable membrane inside each of them to reduce sound pressure levels without drastically changing the overall frequency balance, as conventional earplugs will do. Unlike using swimming earplugs or those cheap foam ones, you get an adjustable and transparent sound reduction of up to 25dB. You can avoid the feeling of "occlusion"—being separated or blocked out from other people and your surroundings when wearing these well-fitting earplugs.

The Minuendo earplugs actually have a volume control lever on them to dial back loud sound levels any where from 7 to 25dB plus the volume for each ear can be set individually.

Gigging musicians are often positioned on stages too close to another player's loud guitar amp or big drum kit. Being able to reduce the level coming into one ear or the other solves this age-old problem diplomatically: being able to hear yourself and/or the rest of the band without problems. If you attend a concert and it becomes too loud, you can re-adjust them while they are placed in your ears—no need to pull them out.

I did try them on my morning walks on busy and noisy streets and I found them to work well once I got the fit correct. Importantly, Minuendos come with a whole set of various sizes of tips to fit any set of ears plus a cleaning kit, neck leash, and expert directions for their use. They have magnets on the outside so when you remove them they "stick" together in your pocket or in the included zippered carrying case.

Great for musicians, concertgoers, or just for dealing with overwhelming loud situations in modern life, Minuendo Lossless Earplugs sell for \$159 MSRP.

minuendo.com

