

Quick Looks

Vater Nude Series Sticks



Vater has always been known for responding to the requests and suggestions of players. In this spirit, they recently introduced their Nude series of sticks. The new sticks have no finish or lacquer. They're left with their "bare" sanded finish.

Now, most drummers have a pretty good idea of what works best for their grip. For some, it's tacky; for others, it's dry. If you're the sort of player who is constantly losing sticks while playing due to sweat, unlacquered sticks may well reduce the risk of slippage.

Vater started the Nude series with their most popular stick models: 5A, 5B, and Power 5B. (More models will likely be added in the near future.) The 16" x .570" 5A is a good all-purpose stick with just a slight

bit of extra weight at the tip. The 5B has basically the same length and contour, with a larger diameter (.605") and tip. The Power 5B has a slightly larger diameter than the 5B (.610"), and is half an inch longer. The sticks are available with either wood or nylon tips. The ones I tried displayed Vater's usual high level of quality.

The unvarnished truth is, if slippage from sweat is a problem for you, these sticks may be the answer. The wood-tip models list for \$12.45; the nylon-tip versions go for \$12.90.

Chap Ostrander

Vater Monster Brush



You say you want a really fat backbeat? Or you need to keep the volume down *most* of the time, but still get a reasonable response when you smack your 16" crash? How 'bout an absolutely killer Nashville "train" beat for that country boogie tune?

The Vater Monster Brush (designed in conjunction with Vater artist La Frae Olivia Sci) may be just the ticket. Physically, it's a handful—literally. The black plastic handle is wrapped around a 1½"-diameter bundle of wavy polymer bristles, giving a pretty good impression of a plastic whisk broom. But those bristles provide enough heft to create a respectable popping backbeat and a decent cymbal crash when the Monster Brush's adjustable O-rings are extended toward the front, and

enough brightness on a drumhead to generate a very wide, "brushes on steroids" sound when those rings are pulled back to broaden the spread. (The polymer strands should also provide good durability.)

The sheer size of the Monster Brushes takes a little getting used to. (Traditional grip is pretty much out of the question.) But once you have them under control, they're likely to become a go-to tool for when you need a "different" sound that doesn't necessarily have to be a "wimpy" one. (Just be sure to leave plenty of room in your stick bag.) Monster Brushes list for \$27.95.

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