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# Rivets Sizzles Rattles Buzzes

BY BUTCH NORTON

Most of you will buy a cymbal, put it on a cymbal stand, hit it—end of story, one dimensional. Today I will scratch the surface on altering your cymbal sounds. As usual these are “new” and “old” school things you can try to create your own sounds, unique and individual to you.

Here is the easiest way to get a sizzle cymbal. Buy one already fabricated with the holes and rivets in place. You can also take an existing cymbal to your local professional drum shop (emphasis on “professional;” I’ve seen too many friends’s cymbals ruined by “hacks”) and get them to drill and attach the rivets for you. The only problem with this is that you now make this cymbal ONE DIMENSIONAL.



The next obvious choice is to buy an external rivet product already out in the market place. Many options are available.



Let’s now take a look at this “hodgepodge” of recycled and odd objects that can transform any cymbal into a multi-faceted instrument.



Make a chain of paper clips.



Try attaching just one paper clip. Use a small piece of tape (whatever is handy, masking, scotch, duct, gaffers, electrical, etc.). Experiment with different lengths of tape for different effects.



Place a triangle on the cymbal. A duller but interesting sound.



Try draping the triangle beater on the cymbal.



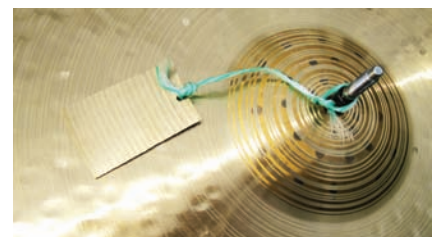
A wire handle from a RETRACTABLE WIRE BRUSH that I snipped off. It doubles as a triangle beater (see my first Butch’s Block on “sticks”). A scintillating sizzle sound.



This is old school, a dime.



Here is a piece of an old broken cymbal. I drilled a small hole in it and attached a piece of string.





How about a nail? I like the head of a nail, but I've also turned it around to use the pointy end.



One of my favorite sounds is the LOOSE TAMBOURINE JINGLE.



Experiment with different placements on the cymbal. Placing an attached object in different spots will create a longer/shorter sustain or activate interesting and unusual frequencies.

We all have some spare keys lying around. Try stringing together a few keys for a more robust sound.



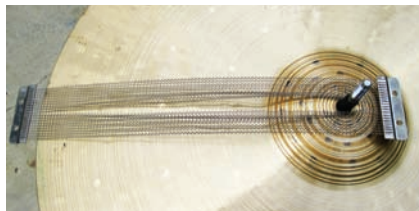
This is a great sound. An old-school flip-off bottle cap. The crimped edges create a cool sound bouncing off of the cymbal.



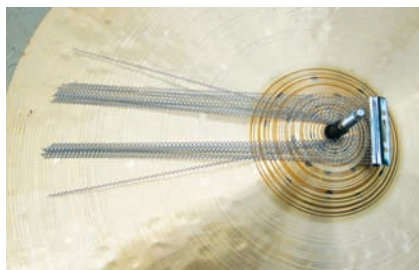
A small sleigh bell. There is only one here, but another great effect is stringing together a bunch of them.



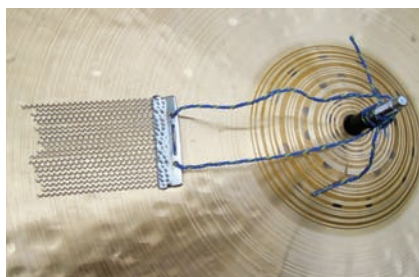
An old bent up bed of SNARES.



I snipped off one of the ends of the snare bed so it could drape and activate differently.



Another variation.



A random loose spring.



A popular trick is to "stack" a smaller cymbal on top of a bigger one.



## BUTCH'S BLOCK

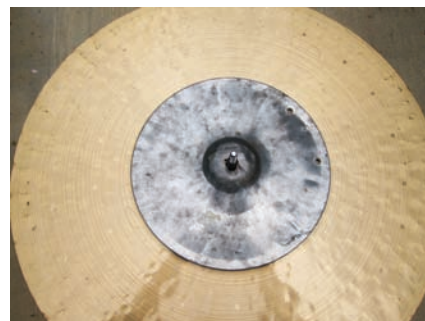
Hopefully by now you've figured out that I don't throw away anything!



Everything can be used or REIMAGINED. Old broken cymbals and bent up toy cymbals make for great sounds, on their own, or stacked in new combinations.



This is a springboard for you to try your own ideas. I'm throwing down the gauntlet. Anything is possible if you just suspend your notions of NORMALCY.



Going to the drum shop and purchasing a ready made product is easy. But creating your OWN PERSONAL ARSENAL OF UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL SOUNDS will separate you from the pack.

You're constantly working on chops, speed, accuracy, independence and dynamics. Don't forget and/or get complacent about the strange world of sounds that are out there for you to invent, explore and discover. ✨

