

Online interview with Phil Hood from *Drum!* Magazine

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1. You've got products that make unique claims I've not heard from any other drum and cymbal maintenance products. Let's start with Wear Barrier, your drumhead product. What problem is it designed to solve?

A: Sound Synergies® barrier film formulas are relatively new and unique to the music maintenance market. We ourselves as musicians, lab techs, and other musicians have collaborated to offer solutions to a number of problems that no one else has addressed in the area of music instrument performance and maintenance to date. There are three main areas that we wanted to address in formulating our WearBarrier® product. One area is a smoother and faster drumhead break-in period and improved tuning stability. The second is reducing stick tip transfer and drumhead wear. And thirdly, a product that is essentially non-toxic, does not promote bacterial growth, and is not harmful to drum finishes.

2. What is technically different about the WearBarrier® formula?

A: WearBarrier® contains conditioners that treat synthetic long-strand fibers that are commonly found in drumhead substrate membranes. These types of conditioners are used for treating common leathers, woods and other substrate materials for long-term sustained use. Another component in our barrier film formula is a high-load capacity compound designed to reduce surface wear and impact damage to the head itself (See images of our 160 hour batter head test at <http://soundsynergies.net/procussioncare-wearbarrier/>). WearBarrier® also contains a corrosion inhibitor to protect hardware such as tension casings and rods. A number of our customers are also applying our barrier film to their drum shells and rims to remove fingerprints while protecting sensitive finishes.

3. CymbalCare® is unique in that it's not a polish or a cleaner per se. It really lubricates and protects and removes grime that deadens the sound. How would you describe it?

A: Cymbals left untreated over time tend to lose their kinetic energy resulting in reduced resonance, sustain and unique harmonic tonality. CymbalCare® gently removes accumulated black oxidation, fingerprints, perspiration and other grime. In the process it lays down a micro-layered barrier film that conditions and protects cymbal surfaces. It also contains a higher percentage of a special tarnish and corrosion inhibitor for long-term protection. CymbalCare® also reduces cymbal surface tension preventing the creation of micro fissures and cracking.

4. Some cymbal products are too harsh from a drummer's point of view. They take off the patina and replace it with a too-shiny look. How does CymbalCare® work in that regard?

A: CymbalCare® is not a harsh chemical cleaner or stripper. One of the first responses we received when asking drummers what they wanted in a cymbal care product was they didn't want a product that stripped away patina but still allowed natural cymbal aging.

It works by breaking the bonds that hold black oxidation, dirt and debris to the surface. It's more of a micro-mechanical process that penetrates underneath and "lifts-off" foreign particles. There is no chemical reduction involved.

Now, if you want to use a metal stripper to achieve that shiny factory look then that's your prerogative. But we highly recommend applying CymbalCare® afterwards to preserve that exposed finish to prevent further oxidation and corrosion.

5. You've also got a pedal product, the only product designed just for lubricating pedals. What's the story behind that?

A: It's no secret that pedals take a beating depending on the player's style. Drummers are now spending upwards from \$200 to \$600+ for quality pedal assemblies and they want a care product that is going to give them long-term service and protect their investment. There are some double pedal assemblies that have over 141 points of lubrication! That's why we developed PedalLube® in collaboration with amateur and professional drummers.

The days of using messy machine oils, Teflon-based, silicone-based, chain and other inferior lubricants are over. They all are unstable and migrate under load while attracting dirt, retaining grime and other debris. These types of lubricants offer no long-term protection and contribute to premature wear.

PedalLube® contains our special HD4X™ compound with an extreme high-load bearing capacity proven in the ballistics industry. It does not migrate and is self-stabilizing meaning that it maintains a barrier equilibrium that does not build up with additional applications. PedalLube® was specifically developed for heavy-duty cycle applications and we found it to be the perfect solution for handling hours of rigorous use and sometimes abuse of drum pedal assemblies.