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# Quick Looks

## *Hornets Drumsticks*

Hornets drumsticks are a brand new line that combine art and function. The "function" part refers to an ergonomic design that features contours made to fit the hand. Your thumb rests behind a wider portion, and your hand sits in a narrower area below the thumb. According to the folks at Hornets, this relaxes the thumb, reducing strain on the forearm tendon and increasing stamina.

The "art" portion of the Hornets design refers to the fact that the sticks are available in a range of colors in the grip area. The butt ends of our sample sticks were yellow, with rubber O-rings imbedded in them. Those O-rings serve many purposes. The manufacturer says they reduce vibration and shock to the hand. When I played the sticks, they definitely had less of a shocky feel than a normal stick. But they by no means felt dead or lacking in rebound.

The rings also help keep your hands located on the sticks. (You know that feeling when

a stick starts to slide, and you find yourself clutching desperately to the last half-inch? You won't have that problem with Hornets.) The rings can also be used to play cymbal rolls. You have to find just the right angle so that the rubber rings contact the surface of the cymbal, but it can be done.

I really enjoyed using the Hornets sticks. Their grip size and design made them easy to hold, and their great balance made them comfortable to play. And they looked striking while I was striking. The sticks are made of first-quality hickory and are pitch- and weight-matched by computer. (A set of rods is also available, though we didn't get to test them.) Stick sizes are 7A, 5A, 5B, and 2B, at a list price of \$24.99 per pair.

[\(917\) 399-9487,](tel:9173999487)

[www.hornetsdrumsticks.com](http://www.hornetsdrumsticks.com)

*Chap Ostrander*



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