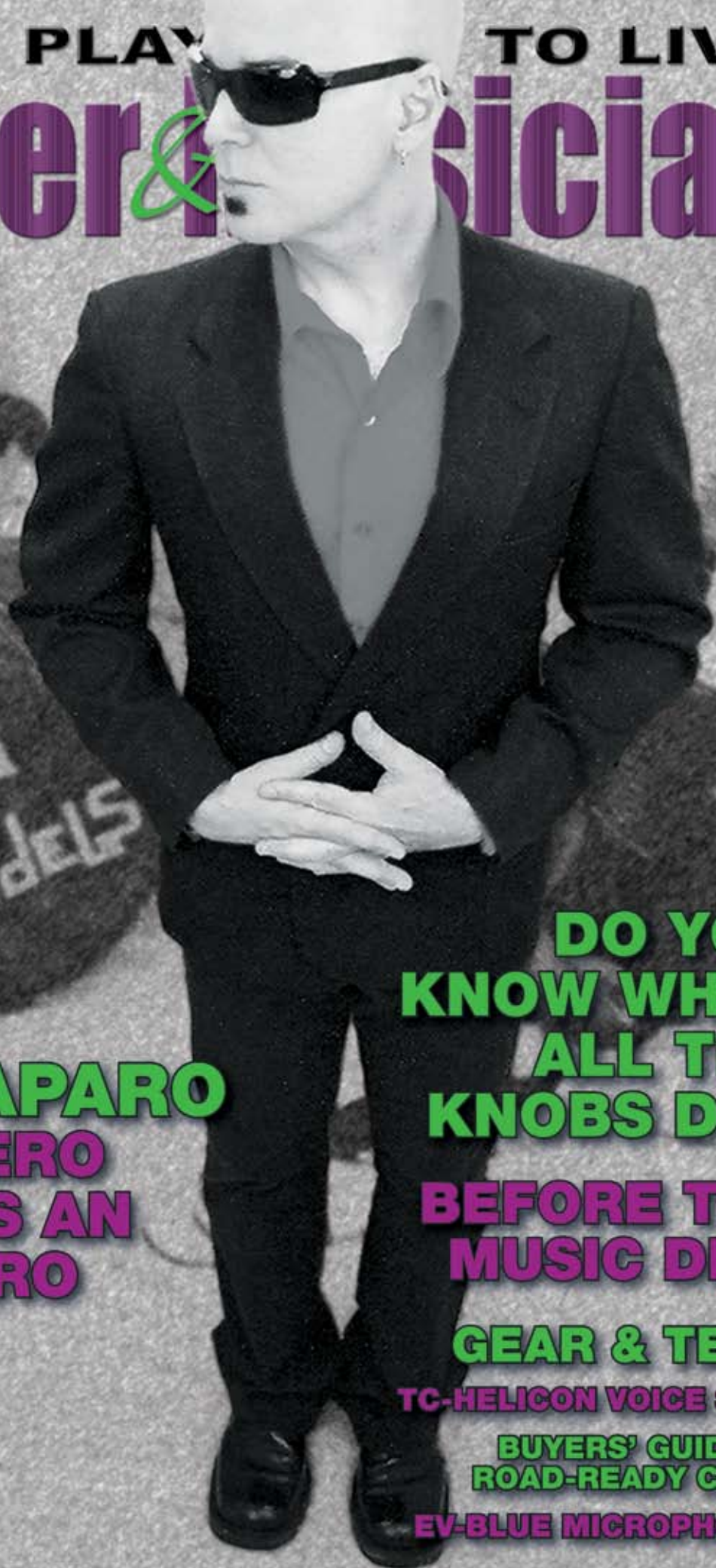


LIVE TO PLAY TO LIVE.

# Singer & Musician



**ANGIE APARO**  
**LABEL ZERO**  
**BECOMES AN**  
**INDIE HERO**

**DO YOU**  
**KNOW WHAT**  
**ALL THE**  
**KNOBS DO?**

**BEFORE THE**  
**MUSIC DIES**

**GEAR & TECH**

**TC-HELICON VOICE SOLO**

**BUYERS' GUIDE TO**  
**ROAD-READY CASES**

**EV-BLUE MICROPHONES**

No. 41 OCTOBER 2006  
\$3.95 US \$5.50 CAN  
www.iLiveToPlay.net



# Hornet Drum Sticks

By Daniel M. East

**F**or a drummer, finding that perfect drumstick is as elusive as finding the perfect set of strings for a guitarist or the appropriate microphone for a singer.

The reality is that the exhaustive search often ends in the frustrating position of settling on something that seems to work instead of something that is just right. We learn, adjust and grow accustomed to whatever is close enough—having recently discovered the well designed, funky looking and great feeling Hornets brand drumsticks, I no longer have to worry about that.

The result of a father and son business from Robert and Aaron Wilhelm, Hornets Drumsticks have more to offer than just brightly colored stick designs on the grip sections with a little “stinger” of O-rings at the base. Most models measure 16.5-inches of hickory and are available in sizes 7A, 5A, 5B, 2B (at the time of this writing) with their bundle-style sticks, Swarm Sticks, coming in at 17-inch in maple. Their round “ball tip” design allows for increased definition at any angle and, unlike “bullet” or smaller ball sizes, Hornets focus the impact in a way that reveals the true timbre of the drum shell, tuning and head type.

I visited Hornets’ booth at the recent NAMM tradeshow and asked for a very simple, yet difficult to find, stick of my preference. The representative replied by asking to see my hand. Once my palm was out, a deep red-based 5B stick

with a full wood ball tip was slapped across my hand. I was amazed by the comfortable design and overall feel of the Hornets, although it does come with a slightly higher price of \$24.99 for most models. While that might seem to be a bit pricey, I found that the Hornets splinter less and last much longer than other brands so they are a good value and look good, too.

Taking the sticks on a few real-life performances, I was convinced my first impression was correct—the Hornets are impressive. Sporting a slight flair/taper in the mid-section, the sticks are perfectly designed for added control and precision. The overall shape easily allows for approximately 15 percent more velocity in the attack of each stroke and using the same effort produces a more accurate stroke that enables the performer to be more dynamic while playing.

With about a 4 percent forward throw, very consistent wood weights and an increased level of control when the sticks are held at varying points (not unlike the control from “choking up” on a baseball bat in some ways), I found that I wanted to play more, play longer and was able to play with less effort. I also found that I had less soreness in my tendons and hands after several shows and less discomfort from vibration overall. Add to that the lack of my usual splintering of the wood from those old sticks I

used to settle for and I could not be happier.

As one who usually goes for simple and traditional products that may either have too little girth in the throat under the tip or just feature a standard taper, I am very glad to have discovered these sticks that are the complete opposite. I am so impressed with the Hornets drumsticks that I will not go back to conventional commercial sticks again any time soon. It is definitely something you have to feel for yourself, but they really give you the ability to put some sting in your swing. These are funky looking, great feeling and excellent sounding drumsticks. They need to be tried to be believed. Find them.

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

List price: \$24.99 - \$35.99 SM

*Daniel East is an author and freelance writer for several media outlets and publications with more than 25 years of experience as a touring musician, live sound engineer, tour manager and consultant.*

**\$25 OFF CDs.**

**Thinking of making CDs?**

Visit [www.discmakers.com/singer](http://www.discmakers.com/singer)

to get your \$25 coupon, which is good for any new replication package.

Hey, what do you have to lose?

**1-866-291-5585**

Coupon offer expires 8/31/06



**Hornets Sticks Put Sting In Your Swing**

**DISC MAKERS™**  
CD AND DVD MANUFACTURING MADE EASY