



# Picking the Perfect Drum Kit for Your House of Worship

By Mark Hutchins

*When you're choosing the perfect drum kit for your worship band or church, you have more to consider than "does it sound good?" You have to deal with sound volume issues, for starters. Will an acoustic kit work, or will you need an electronic set? How varied is your slate of worship songs and styles? Will the drums you choose be used on the platform only, or will they do double duty in the youth room? Will they travel? And perhaps most importantly, will they fit your budget? Luckily, there's a perfect kit out there for you, and we'll help you find it.*

## The tried and true acoustic kit

If you want unparalleled sound, feel, and response from your drum kit, acoustic drums remain the gold standard. Like acoustic guitars, these drums have stood the test of time and continue to do the job throughout every genre and musical style. Sweetwater carries a large selection of acoustic drums, cymbals, and hardware, and we can help you put together the perfect kit for your church's needs and budget requirements. Because factors such as size, depth, and types of drum heads can make big differences in a drum kit's volume, tone, and feel, you'll want to think about the styles your group plays — and whether

or not this kit will also be used for other applications (the youth room, for example). Keep in mind that you can shop for a complete kit that's ready to play right out of the box, or you can put together a custom drum set with your choice of shells (typically the kick drum and the tom toms), snare drum, cymbals, stands, and pedals. Your Sales Engineer will help you work out all the details, so you can make an informed decision about the drums you choose.

## Volume control

So, how does a great-sounding acoustic kit translate in your house of worship? The good news is that a quality drum kit can contribute greatly to the musical worship experience. The bad news? An acoustic kit doesn't come with a volume knob. Sure, you could simply ask your drummer to play more lightly, but some songs and styles simply don't lend themselves to restrained playing. But there just happens to be an elegant solution — and we have it here, in stock! Plexiglas isolation panels give you a twofold benefit: they cut the drum volume that projects directly outward, and they still allow the worship team and the gathering to see the drummer (and vice versa). Because it's especially critical that you control and balance the sound levels coming off of the platform, isolation panels make a wise choice for small or medium-sized performance spaces. These isolation panels also work great on guitar and bass amplifiers.



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**On the move**

If you use your drum kit for more than just platform performances, pay special attention to the hardware you choose. It's important to have sturdy, stable stands and pedals in any setup — especially if your kit gets moved frequently. If you want the ultimate in easy transport and storage, however, you can't beat an integrated, frame-style setup. You'll find this configuration on several electronic kits, and it definitely makes the drum set easy to move. Some drummers prefer individual stands because they allow the kit to be tailored to the player's style (and easily expanded if or when the need arises). Your Sales Engineer can help you determine your perfect setup.

**The joy of electronic drums**

If you want total control over your drum volume on the platform, you can't go wrong with an electronic drum kit. Because you plug an electronic kit into a sound system, you can control the volume level and adjust the EQ to suit your room perfectly. Plus, modern electronic sets give you very realistic drum sounds; many models actually let you choose from several different kit sounds — from "standard" to jazz, arena rock to techno, and more! If your worship group covers a variety of styles, this can be a very handy feature.

Today's electronic kits don't just sound fantastic; they're made to feel and play like their acoustic counterparts. Mesh drum pads and multisensor cymbal pads allow you to play expressively because they respond like "real" drum heads and cymbals. Some mesh-head drums can actually be tuned, so you can adjust the tension to suit your playing taste!

**The right accessories make a difference**

From drumsticks to thrones to speakers, the right accessories complete your drum kit. If you're working with an acoustic set, you'll want to pick a comfortable throne that puts the drummer at just the right height for playing (a well-padded seat helps too). Sticks might appear to be a simple choice, but there are several types and thicknesses that work best for different players and styles. Brush and bundle sticks are also handy for more understated worship songs. We have a huge selection of sticks, and we'll help you find the right ones for your setup. When it's time to amplify your electronic drum kit, you can use a keyboard amp or a portable PA system, or you can plug into your house sound system for total control. We also stock a huge selection of pedals, stands, cymbals, and percussion products — we've got what you need to equip your church with the perfect drum kit!



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**New!**