



Beta Monkey Music, LLC. Oxford, CT 06478 USA
1-888-289-2417 | www.betamonkeymusic.com

Double Bass Mania III: Behind the Scenes *and* What We Want from You

- ***Double Bass Mania III and Beyond***
- **We Want Your Feedback!**
-

Double Bass Mania III and Beyond

Double Bass Mania III is specifically focused for a certain tempo range (180-240 BPM) and we did our best to give you a lot of variety and content within this tempo range. We are aware, however, that metal is full of time changes and tempo shifts – there is always room for a half-time breakdown in even the heaviest of tunes. Knowing full well that we couldn't include all the fast grooves and fills as well as the material for breakdown parts (half-time grooves and fills), we decided to stay focused and organize this Double Bass Mania III disc as well as the upcoming Double Bass Mania IV disc as follows:

Double Bass Mania III: Metal in the 180-240 BPM range (includes 180, 200, 220, and 240 BPM)

Double Bass Mania IV: All corresponding complement tempos (90, 100, 110, and 120 BPM)

Double Bass Mania V: TBA (based on your feedback and existing material from these recording sessions)

We Want Your Feedback!

When we set out to create this collection of grooves, we knew there was no way we could cover everything metal. The genre is wildly diverse and any sample set that claims it can cover it all is lying. There's too much to cover even in a multi-disc set.

First, we'll explain what we tried to do and expected to accomplish with this set. Then, we'll look at what we think we have actually produced and can offer to you. And, last, we'll let you know what we mean by needing your help (skip ahead a section if you want to cut to the quick and get to our request).

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Obviously the first goal was to make a collection of heavy-sounding sick grooves. We wanted to really take the tempos way up (200+ bum) as well as way down (below 60 bum - these slow grooves are not on Double Bass Mania III, but will come in the releases to follow).

But, the hard rives filled up quickly trying to get all things metal laid down for these sessions.

So, we had to take a more focused approach and designate what tempos would get placed on which discs. We decided DBM III was ripe for some really fast stuff. We know then that everyone would want breakdowns (half-times), so these will be included on the next disc, DBM IV. We have enough for DBM V actually, but we decided to take a "wait and see" attitude and build that one on the feedback we get with the two already planned. So, with that in mind, it leads us to a powerful and important request...

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The kit for this project is still set-up; everything is still in the same positions as when we recorded for Double Bass Mania III from January 2009 to June 2009. So, we still have the sounds dialed in and can add anything we want to the existing sessions and grooves you have on this disc. So, if you can think of anything we should/could add, we want to know.

Just send us an email (chris@betamonkeymusic.com is best) with your request for new grooves. Just be sure you tell us the following with your request:

- ** Tempo
- ** Time Signature
- ** Voices needed for time-keeping in groove (hihat, open hihat, crash, ride, china, toms, etc.)
- ** Song Part (main grooves, breakdown, fills, etc.)

If you have any musical references, send those as well. You can simply tell us, "Hey, I need a groove and some fills that sound like that Lamb of God song "XXX" as well as something like that Machine Head song "XXX." We can then check out those references and see if we can get something in the ballpark.

If we get enough requests, we will group them by tempo and create a larger set that includes multiple user requests. It's time-efficient for us as well as logical for you as the end user.

The goal with this request is to get everything into the Double Bass Mania series that you want to hear and will actually use. We can add these supplemental grooves that are driven by requests in later volumes or make them single downloadable sets available for purchase for a few bucks (tops!).

So, if you want anything, LET US KNOW. We can't keep the Double Bass Mania III set-up in the studio for the next ten years, but if you can get us any request during the summer of 2009 we can get right on it!

Enjoy the grooves -- Keep the Faith!

The Beta Monkey Team
www.betamonkeymusic.com

Double Bass Mania III -- Drum and Cymbal Specifications

With each release we always get asked technical questions about the drums and cymbals we used. What kind of kit is that? What snare did you use? What are the sizes of the cymbals? So, with this in mind, we thought we might share some information about the gear we used to create the grooves and sounds found on *Double Bass Mania III*. This might be interesting reading for die-hard tech guys as well as those who really could care less.

THE DRUMS

We recorded a maple Tama Starclassic for *Double Bass Mania III*. The sizes of the drums:

Kick: 18"x22"

Toms: 8"x10", 10"x12", 14"x14", and 14"x16"

Snare: Ludwig Black Beauty, 5 1/2" x 14"

Heads: Remo Emperors (clear) on toms, Remo Ambassador (coated) on snare, Remo Powerstroke 3 on kicks

The CYMBALS

A number of different cymbals were used in recording this project. It seemed that at different phases of the recording we kept buying and adding new and different cymbals. What started with two crashes and two China cymbals became several crashes, several more Chinas, and strange combos thereof! So, here is a breakdown of the cymbals you hear on the grooves:

HH -- 14" Zildjian A New Beats

Rides: 22" Zildjian Powerbell, 22" Paiste Rude, and 21" Sabian Rock Ride

Crashes: Various Sabian AA and AAX crashes (mostly AAX series, sizes 16", 18", and 19") and Zildjian (generally A Series, sizes 16", 17", and 18")

Chinas and Splashes: The Chinas and splashes were the most varied because often we used Chinas "as is" as well as in stacked formations (combining a China with a splash, one stacked on top of the other):

19" Sabian China

18" Zildjian A (think Lars Ulrich pre-*Black Album*)

14" China

8" Splash

10" Splash

12" Splash (forget the models - these were temporary loaners)

In the loops, you will see names like XChina, YChina, and the like - these were names given to the Chinas as we used them, and reflect the different sounds and combinations of the cymbals.

As for tracking, all drums are live with two exceptions. Kicks and snares have reinforcing samples mixed in via Drumagog. Usually the mix is about a 60/40 live-to-sample ratio (meaning the natural sounds are about 60% of the resulting sound with the remainder being the supplemental sample). The ratio may vary in places, depending on the intensity of the grooves.

But, generally, we tried to get a tried and true metal sound while keeping things as naturally ambient as possible. There's just sometimes no way to cut through a wall of guitars and bass without a carefully sculpted sample with snap!

So, there you have it - a quick and dirty run-down of the gear we used in recording Double Bass Mania III. Not that much of it matters because you can get great sounds from any gear so long as you use it to its fullest potential (and work the mix). For us, this stuff worked well in getting some heavy sounds that we think you are going to put to great use in some very heavy music.

Enjoy the grooves.

The Beta Monkey Music Team
Beta Monkey Music
www.betamonkeymusic.com