



AQUILES PRIESTER MIXIN' IT UP WITH *SIGNATURE*

Till **Aquiles Priester** was 14 years old, he thought he was going to be a pro soccer player. Then one day, he walked by a club with his father and saw a drum kit...and his future changed. Aquiles has become one of the most famous Rock drummers to hail from Brazil and his incredible bass drum chops are renowned. A band he started called Hangar began receiving critical acclaim and were soon asked to open for Angra, Brazil's greatest Metal act. After a few years of hard work, Aquiles' name value increased and he finally was asked to join Angra...one of his favorite bands. He enjoyed many years with them and has influenced thousands of drummers worldwide. Since 2001, he's been voted Brazil's Best Heavy Metal drummer in virtually all the metal magazines and websites. In early 2009, Hangar once again found the good fortune that Aquiles was available and he re-joined his old friends. We asked him recently about his eclectic setup and how he utilizes different series of cymbals on the same kit:

Rich Mangicaro: Aquiles, what qualities do you look for in a ride cymbal?

Aquiles Priester: I worry a lot about the definition of each note played on the ride. For the kind of music I play, the projection of notes on my ride has to be very defined. Paiste has a great variety of rides with a very characteristic sound irrespective of the line in question. In my case, I love 24" rides with gigantic bells because that is what I use the most, the bell. Recently, Paiste manufactured 18" rides with the bell of a 24" for me and I am very pleased with them.

RM: Do different musical situations you play in dictate whether or not you change your setup configuration? If so, do certain cymbals remain the same regardless?

AP: Most times when I'm invited to record with other artists,

it is still some style linked to Rock in general so I basically use the same cymbals, but when I'm recording, I use less cymbals. So as not to lose the distinctive sound of these artist's songs, I usually use another ride with a smaller bell since cymbals with large bells are mostly used in heavy metal. When recording, I opt for smaller crashes because I prefer having more control over the bleed of the rack tom microphones...something impossible with large cymbals that have greater sound projection.

RM: What's your ideal crash cymbal for projection?

AP: It's one that you can hear clearly no matter the part of the song - be it simpler or more refined. I'll mention Signature Full and Power Crashes. They are unbeatable in any situation. Lately, I've also have been loving the sound of my Rude 18" & 19" Thin Crashes.

RM: Aquiles, your kit is very impressive. I know you take great pride not only in the sonic quality of your instruments, but also the visual appearance. Do you ever make changes, just for visual reasons?

AP: I only change my cymbals when they break and that doesn't happen very often. I try to keep them as clean as possible so that the kit always looks new. I'm very concerned about Paiste's image and always want to represent it in the best possible way. I only change the cymbals when I need a different sonority during recordings, but that is very rare.

RM: What do you like best about mixing various Series?

AP: I like the variety of sounds I can achieve. I'm a drummer faithful to the cymbals I use. I always try using practically the same cymbals in the same places, even when they have to be substituted. Only Paiste can guarantee the same cymbal sound when these are the same model and size. I became spoiled because this is a character that only Paiste has: sound fidelity. If I now have a signature way of playing my ride and cymbals, Paiste is definitely my pen.