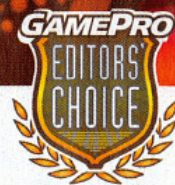


REVIEWS

It's the same great Rock Band flavor that you know and love. Just looking at it makes you want to play, right?



ROCK BAND 2

The game that turned countless gamers into virtual rock stars is back for a melt-your-face encore!

ION DRUM ROCKER

An awesome drum kit for the serious Rock Band player.



There's no denying that the drum portion of Rock Band is what really helped set it apart from its competitor, Guitar Hero. Yes, the vocals were a fun addition but the drums added a kickass element to the overall experience. If you really liked drumming in Rock Band, then you owe it to yourself to consider the ION Drum Rocker. A premium set of virtual drums, the ION is a sturdy, professional looking kit that absolutely blows the stock drum kit out of the water.

It's well constructed, has sturdy pads that are lined with a soft material to dampen noise, and features fully adjustable arms so that you can position each pad exactly where you want it. It also has two cymbals that mirror the green and yellow pads (you can add a third optional cymbal for the blue pad); they add a nice element of realism to the experience, especially during solos. The all-metal foot pedal is also solidly built and won't go slipping around on the floor when you stomp on it and if you want to get really serious about drumming, you can plug the ION into a "drum brain" and use it as an electronic drum kit.

There's no denying the quality of the ION and we've replaced our stock drum kit with it here in the GamePro offices; obviously, we won't be going back. But here's the real kicker—the ION retails for \$300. The fact that it can function as a real set of electronic drums helps explain the high price tag, as does the quality of the materials and construction, but for the average Rock Band player, that's pretty ridiculously.

If, and it's a big if, you are serious about your Rock Band drum playing or if you're looking for an electronic drum kit, then the ION is pretty damn compelling. However, if you're just looking to have some fun, you're probably better off sticking with the stock drums.



FUN FACTOR



from
**DRUM
ROCKER**

PROS: The ultimate Rock Band drum kit; can function as an electronic drum kit as well.

CONS: The high price tag means only serious players or actual musicians should apply.