

Crafting cymbals in Turkey



the liquid bronze alloy is cast into individual moulds (large picture + picture 3).

After the ingots have cooled (picture 4), they are cleaned of the cinder. In various successive production steps, the castings are heated until they glow red and fed through rolling mills to be flattened until the correct thickness has been achieved (picture 5 + 6). To ensure a consistent compression of the bronze, it is crucial that the casts are rolled into different directions every time they are fed through the rolling mills. Now the flattened sheets are stored away for recreation of the material.

At first, a hole is punched through the sheet and then cut round into the correct diameter (picture 7 + 8). After being reheated once more, the bell of the cymbal is pressed in (picture 9) and dipped into a quenching bath to increase the hardness grade of the bronze.

Immediately after, they are rubbed with a tincture in order to prevent the bronze sheets from breakage (picture 10). The formula of this special tincture has been a well treasured secret for many generations!

Now the work of the cymbal smiths begins. Every cymbal is extensively hand hammered into a shape which will define its unique and individual sound (picture 11 + 12). This complex art of hand hammering cymbals not only requires years of experience, but also concentration and a lot of flair. Every hand hammered cymbal is a true piece of art and is unique in its own sound which can never again be duplicated.

Next, the edges of the hand hammered cymbals are deburred (picture 13) and the lathing begins (picture 14). Requiring years of experience to achieve, lathing is an extremely important step in the production process. It allows each cymbal to be specifically fine-tuned.

The cymbals are then delivered to the MEINL Cymbal Smithy in Germany. There, every cymbal is hand tested for look and sound by MEINL's specialists. If a cymbal does not conform to their standards, it is recycled. Cymbals which pass this test are then grinded, and depending on the model, high polished, sandblasted, or they remain in their regular finish. Next an application of super thin layer of lacquer (except brilliant finish cymbals) is applied in order to seal and protect its surface. The MEINL logo and series description is pad printed and last but not least the serial number is engraved utilizing modern laser technique.

After a final quality inspection, they are stored in order for the metal to relax. When this storage period has been completed, the instruments are ready for delivery worldwide.

The art of traditional cymbal making in Turkey fuses together in a perfect combination of traditional experience and also the know-how of a leading modern cymbal manufacturer.

Traditional handcraft



In MEINL's own production facility in Turkey, B20 bronze alloy cymbals are hand-crafted.

The manufacturing of B20 bronze in Turkey has a long tradition. Every cymbal is individually cast. This means that the bronze alloy of every cymbal is separately poured into individual moulds. In a furnace with temperatures exceeding 1000 degrees Celsius, pure copper and tin (picture 1) of the highest quality are merged (picture 2). Once the correct mixture of compounds is verified,

