

# Hansenfütz Fütz Pedals

## FOR PRACTICE, FOR PLAY

BY **NORMAN WEINBERG**

**I**t's the American way: Find a need and fill it! While there are dozens of practice pads designed to give your hands a workout, there was nothing on the market for your feet. Enter Hansenfütz with the Fütz pedal.

### SPECS

Lightweight (but not flimsy or fragile), the Fütz is constructed from a glass-filled nylon material, and its footplate and baseplate are molded with structural ribs on the underside for additional stability and strength. Pedal height is adjusted by moving a screw on the underside of the baseplate to one of three different positions. Adjusting spring tension is a little more complicated (you have to first open the pedal by removing the safety- and height-adjustment screws) but can be accomplished in about two minutes with a screwdriver. Since this isn't the type of adjustment that you'll make regularly, take the time to get the pedal's feel where you like it. Then put down that screwdriver because it's time to ...

### PRACTICE

The Fütz works as a very quiet practice pedal because of a silencer pad that absorbs the stroke when the footboard makes contact with the impact tower. It's so quiet in fact that you can practice while watching TV or listening to tunes without disturbing the folks sitting near you. And if you want a more satisfying *thump* when the pedal makes contact with the post, it's only a five-second fix to remove the pad.

**Is it a practice kick pedal or a percussion performance pedal or an electronic trigger? How about all three in one?**

### PLAY

The Fütz is actually for much more than practicing. Attach a trigger to the baseplate, and you have a small and inexpensive electronic pedal. The review model came with the manufacturer-recommended Pintech RS-5 trigger. I tested the hot-rodged pedal with both a Yamaha electronic kit and a drumKAT. It worked fine for me right out of the box, but depending on your playing style, you may need to adjust the trigger input sensitivity.

Two add-ons make the Fütz even more versatile. An optional steel beater inserts into the toe of the pedal board. Use it to stomp on a cowbell, tambourine, Jam Block, or any other bangle that mounts on the low-profile percussion stand. Place the playing-enabled pedal just about anywhere. Since there are no cumbersome tripod legs getting in the way, it will fit very close to your hi-hat and easily under a conga stand or a floor tom. Used as an electronic pedal, a Fütz can also snuggle right next to your acoustic bass drum. Heck, for extra-fancy foot patterns, put one on each side of your bass drum pedal!

### APPLAUSE

For the first incarnation of a new product, the Fütz folks have really thought their pedal through. There are little touches that indicate the designers went the extra mile to bring this product to market. For example, the silencer pad under the footboard has a little quarter-moon shape cut out that makes removal quick and easy. The plastic rod receiver on the toe plate holds the steel beater securely yet not so tightly that it's a hassle to work with. Heavy-duty Velcro strips on the underside of the Fütz and the percussion stand keep pedal creep in check. In addition, the company's web site has

### DETAILS

**MODEL** Hansenfütz Fütz Pedal

**PRICE** \$44.95

**FEATURES** Adjustable pedal angle and spring tension, small footprint, lightweight

#### OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES & PRICES

Silencer pads (two pack, \$4.95), beater (\$9.95), Pintech RS-5 Drum Trigger (\$17), percussion stand (\$24.95)

**CONTACT** Hansenfütz, 273 Middle Park Dr., Souderton, PA 18965. 800-697-5583. [hansenfutz.com](http://hansenfutz.com)





**Man, there are captions  
all over the place!**



**Attach a  
trigger and  
convert the little  
fella into an  
electronic pedal**

plenty of useful information, including instructions for making adjustments to the pedal as well as video clips on how the pedal can be used in a variety of situations.

I asked a colleague, Robin Horn, from the University of Arizona to also check out the Fütz. He said that he "believes that it is a good basic practice device, especially for students who live in a dormitory or an

apartment. Practicing with two would be good for developing double bass drum technique." He cautioned, though, that "drummers need to have the feel of a beater against a surface to develop control of their foot technique." So while the pedal is a great tool to practice the physical movements of bass drum technique, remember that nothing replaces playing the actual instrument.

**VERDICT**

You can't go wrong with a Fütz. A bargain for all that it can do, the pedal is a valuable addition for drum-set players, hand drummers, and even multiple-percussionists playing contemporary chamber music. Best of all, I've seen the street prices for the Fütz and its accessories quite a bit lower than the listed MSRPs. Shhhh.

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