



Mattoon Drums and Percussion, LLC
313 S. Irving St.
Greenville, MI 48838
(413)281-8228
<http://www.mattoondrums.com>
info@chrismattoon.com

February 03, 2024
Appraised by: Chris Mattoon

Appraisal of Value

Instrument Manufacturer	Leedy Manufacturing Company
Year of Manufacture	1941
Model	Broadway Parallel Swingster (Catalog no. 780)
Size	8"X14"
Finish	Autographs of the Stars
Serial Number / Interior Stamp	4108

Historical Overview:

The Broadway Parallel Swingster snare drum is an upper-end model from Leedy Manufacturing Company (Leedy). According to the 1941 Leedy catalog, the snare features a three ply shell composed of maple and mahogany, streamlined "beaver tail" lug castings with self aligning tension rods, double flange counterhoops, and their parallel strainer. The advantages of this parallel strainer are described as having "several outstanding features found on no other strainer. Of particular note is the elimination of all side play and loss motion in the mechanical parts. Also, the 'direct' pull of the strainer tension know, doing away with the former 'loose' track. Individual tension has also been incorporated as well as improved throw-off lever and links."

Leedy drums were one of the first to incorporate an undersized shell, marketed as the "floating head design", allowing easier fit of heads and better tuning across a wider range. Again, the 1941 catalog states "modern music, with the accent on rhythm and the drummer and his drums in greater prominence than ever before, demands a snare drum with a deeper, more resonant tone than that afforded by the 5-inch, or even 6 1/2-inch drum. Snappy, sensitive snare response, however, must NOT be sacrificed. The Leedy floating head feature and the Leedy individual snare tension Parallel snare strainer combine to make the Leedy BROADWAY Parallel "Swingsters" the snappiest, most sensitive, easiest playing and finest sounding drums on the market in the 7- and 8-inch sizes." In 1941, this drum, catalogued as no. 780, listed for \$59.00.

In 1941, Leedy introduced the "Autographs of the Stars" wrap - a tribute to their endorsers and a marketing strategy to showcase the top notch talent Leedy had on their roster. This was

showcased on pages 2, 4, and 16 of their catalog, second only to white marine pearl in frequency of appearance for any wrap. However, public reception to the finish, combined with the USA's involvement in World War 2, proved to be too much for the company's plans. The "Autographs of the Stars" finish was released in very limited quantities before being discontinued. While a few sheets remained at the factory, and were subsequently used on later one-off builds by the company in the 1950's, this original release is the most sought after. Today, less than a handful of these drums still exist, and most are in the hands of private collectors, rarely coming up for sale.

Condition and Observations:

This drum is a fine example of an original snare. There are no modifications, extra holes, or replacement parts. The bearing edges are original, snare beds are factory, and plating is in very good condition. The wrap is strong glued well to the shell. There is no seam lifting. The interior paint is original, and the date stamp is present and strong. The shell is round, and the reinforcing rings fit tightly and are fixed to the shell without any issues. The badge is original and the grommet is tight and unmolested. The wrap was at one point covered in a white paint. This has since been removed professionally. Very few bits of this paint remain where it was deemed to difficult to remove by the restorer without risking further damage to the wrap. In these cases, for example in a scratch or divot, less than a pencil lead in diameter of white paint remains. The shell was polished and waxed with a museum-grade microcrystalline wax to prevent oxidation and preserve the wrap. The hardware was cleaned and polished to a proper-looking degree for nickel plating. There are two small cracks in the wrap, each less than 1/2" long, extend from the mounting screw holes for the lower portion of the parallel throw off on one side. This is consistent with age and considered minimal. The interior rod connecting the two sides of the throw-off fits into a receiver on either side. One of these receivers was cracked at one point in time, and repaired with a small screw. It is a solid repair, and functions normally without issue. The heads are new, however the snare wires are original and in good condition.

Appraised Value:

Due to the rarity of this finish, previous sales are few and far between. The last recorded example of a drum in this finish to sell in open market was 12 years ago to a private collector for \$7,500.00. At the date of this appraisal, there is one bass drum on an online auction site (eBay) listed for \$2,100.00. Snare drums are much more in demand than bass drums or tomtoms, and as such, there is a wide but consistent discrepancy in pricing between the two. Considering the condition of this drum, the extremely scarce and sought-after finish, the model of this snare and original features, and previous sales with respect to inflation and market, this snare is valued at \$9,500.00 for both replacement cost and sale price.

(Appendix 1: photographs provided by owner)

(Appendix 2: 1941 Leedy Catalog)



Chris Mattoon
Owner
Mattoon Drums and Percussion LLC