

About using the 602/Sound Creation price tables:

To start with, if you know nothing else about a cymbal then guess the average price. That is assuming it isn't badly damaged in some way (see the bit at the top of the table which says: "after extracting seriously cracked, keyholed, and otherwise damaged"). Slight keyhole and/or the odd edge ding just means you should expect to be in the lower part of the range (low through to average). What gets you well into the upper part of the range is one or more of:

excellent condition or better (better than excellent means NOS or mint in my scale)
ink logos still there (including model designation)
an unusually thin or heavy example of that model

Rare or unusual or more desirable pieces (hint to sellers: this does not mean putting L@@K Rare in your ad for a 20" 602 medium ride) tend to suppress the price dip due to something like keyhole.

See also the more detailed fact sheet on the 602 medium ride for some more info on price differences by period (pre serial, black, blue). Ditto the division of Sound Creations into: early, late, and New Dimensions. The different eras do have small average differences in price.

In addition to the cymbal itself, the quality of the ad plays a part as does the reputation of the seller. Good pics and good sound file get more price love. But you didn't need a statistician to tell you that.

Finally, there is a lot of price variation on eBay. I've seen two cymbals I would consider interchangeable go for quite different prices within a day or so. That's why I've collected lots of data over the years to get sample sizes which are sufficient to get a handle on all the variation. But that's a statistician for you.

So always think "plus or minus 20%" on any estimate. I haven't given the calculations for these factors yet (and yes they vary from model to model) but I hope you get the idea. As the stock market analysts like to say "the market is volatile".

In the interest of open information and proper science, all raw data is available in spreadsheet form. Just ask. Also feel free to ask for any more detailed analysis of something which is of interest to you.

Notes on my coding scheme (full info available on request)

Condition is coded on the scale

NOS: new old stock (occasionally coded New In Box of original packaging there)

Mint: no evidence of wear

Excellent: light use and taken care of

Good: moderate use showing

Fair: showing its age

Poor: rough but usable, usually specific faults recorded (eg keyhole)

Here is an example of how I code examples with "keyhole" or some sort of incipient wear of the mounting hole. Note that this coding has evolved over the years of the study.

The link below shows one of my cymbals which has the mounting hole just starting to get out of round (the extra worn edge is heading vertically in this picture). This is not something I would record as keyhole. Just normal wear and tear for a 50 year old cymbal. The condition of the cymbal could be recorded as Fair, depending on other elements of condition (if it were cracked then "cracked" or similar would appear in the condition field).

<http://black.net.nz/cym2013/key-slight.jpg>

This second link shows another of my cymbals which has what would be called "slight keyhole". Again, this isn't bad for a 50 year old cymbal. It is still in the analysis tables.

<http://black.net.nz/cym2013/key-bad.jpg>

This phenomenon is called "keyhole" because as that worn part (heading off at about 10 o'clock) gets longer and longer, the mounting hole begins to look more like the keyhole in a door. Like this more extreme example:

<http://black.net.nz/cym2014/bbad-keyhole.jpg>

This would be recorded as "keyhole" in the condition field and would generally be excluded from the expected price tables.

last updated: 13 Mar 2014 5:00 pm