



Peter Criss' KISS 1977 Pearl Love Gun Snare Drum

One of the most interesting but difficult parts of my job is retracing the history of a particular drum. Knowing a drum's complete history makes the drum far more interesting and ultimately more valuable. That being said, the history on this drum still has a few holes in it. Here's what I know so far.

I acquired the drum in the late 1990s from current Journey drummer Deen Castronovo. I'd met Deen in the early 1980s when he toured in the Seattle area his band Wild Dogs. Two decades later I get a call from him and he has a drum for me. In 1995 he was in the Guitar Center in Hollywood when Peter Criss happened in. Criss was selling several items from his KISS days including some stage costumes, leather platform boots, and this snare drum. Castronovo jumped on the snare. The drum is a 14" x 10" maple shell covered in chrome. The

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hardware, lugs, and batter head are clearly Pearl, however, there is no badge or serial number on the drum. I'm not sure if this was a stock Pearl model or something they custom made for KISS. Criss signed the head and a Guitar Center certificate of authenticity. He also included a laminate from KISS' Australian tour that had just ended a few months earlier. According to Criss, he'd used the drum on KISS' 1977 Love Gun tour. I have found photos of him using what appears to be this drum on the band's 1979 Dynasty tour but can't find

anything from the Love Gun tour.

I know there's a rabid KISS fan out there somewhere who can help me fill in the blanks in the drum's history. It's really cool to meet people who are as crazy about this stuff as I am. Can you help me? I'd love to hear from you.

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