

# *Design of a Future Drum Kit*

## **Background**

As one of the most popular musical instruments, drum kits play a significant role in modern music. However, there are some problems regarding the design of current drum kits. Drum kits are heavy, space-consuming, difficult to set up and transport, which significantly affects the user experience, especially for professional band drummers who need to transport the drum frequently. This inflexibility limits other drummers as well, such as people who enjoy drumming but do not have a spacious flat. Besides, drummers are symbols of passion and emotion. It would be interesting to dig deeper into their inner world to identify drummers' emotional values towards drumming and discover new design possibilities.

## **Approach**

Competitor research was conducted to build a solid understanding of the product. Trend research was conducted to look into future scenarios. Interviews were done to get the first-hand material of the real drummers. After synthesis, the design vision was created, which addresses the drummer's fundamental emotion – curiosity. Related functional needs were identified: produce richer sounds, easy set-up, flexible transport, and customizable configuration. Design vision, key emotion, and functional needs together form a complete design logic.

## **Outcome**

The final design – Collector, consists of three products: drum kit, smart module, smart drumsticks. Drummers could take the smart module and drumsticks alone to go out to collect the sound samples to build their own sound library. Besides, the drum kit itself is compact and lightweight with a new modern, minimalistic design language. It is easy to set up, transport, or customize. This flexibility brings enormous potential to the drumming experience.



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