

# Duende Cajons

words: Ian Croft images: Eckie

**Duende box clever with innovative designs and craftsmanship**

**D**uende Percussion is a family run Spanish cajon manufacturer based in Seville that was started by Flamenco players.

The company's intent is to bring a quality to the market with Duende currently building cajons for other domestic brands that have come to trust their craftsmanship.

UK distributor Percussivity sent *Drummer* three differing models for review that only hint at the potential that Duende can offer to the semi-pro player and the more experienced professional player's requirements with a view to increasing the use of the cajon into a broader spectrum of musical styles. All the Duende cajons come with a standard two-year warranty that is further extendable by a year. Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin.

### DUENDE CLASSIC

This drum is part of the semi-pro series and is a mid range cajon that is made entirely of Okume wood with an internal resonating snare string that is a guitar string that sits up against the 4mm Okume wood resonating head and features a V shaped snare string with an internal tuning system connected to an external key.

The main body is 7mm thick whilst the front panel is 4mm and the overall dimensions are 475 x 300 x 295mm, making this a convenient size for easy transportation. Our review model features a blue finish and Duende aims this instrument at the acoustic musician on a budget. This cajon offers a quite dry tone emanating from the handsomely

finished body that produces a mid-range pitch. Volume levels are good and response is very satisfying.

### DUENDE CON FUSION

The Con Fusion is also aimed at the semi-pro player and is a unique instrument that features two playable resonating heads that can therefore provide different colours, allowing the player to mix-and-match according to their requirements and as far as I know is a first in terms of this double-faced design.

The innovative playing surfaces offer the option of a crisper tone, what Duende term 'drum kit tone' against the more traditional and natural sounding standard cajon on the reverse side. This drum features one resonating head made from Okume with the other manufactured from African Zebra wood. This cajon too is fitted with a resonating string and internal tuning system. The other panel is made of birch and has no resonating string to provide a wider sound diversity - in reality giving you three playing surfaces. This dual-faced model is identical in size to the Duende Classic model. The Zebra striped face offers a high, slightly dry tone with excellent response and resonance whilst the Okume face produces a lower note with a touch more resonance and sustain. This cajon is a lot of fun to play upon and allows for the opportunity to produce a broad array of tones and sounds.



### DUENDE LATINO

The Latino model is a professional cajon with a three string/snare resonating system with individual tuning keys. The front face is manufactured from 2.5mm birch whilst the chassis is produced with 8mm birch making this cajon feel nicely solid with a broad playing area. This drum is 460 x 350 x 315mm and thoughtfully comes in a padded protection case.

The Latino model produces sonorous low bass tones that resonate nicely, giving a big, full sound. Response levels are very high even when I played the cajon with nylon brushes and volume is excellent. Play nearer the top edge and the tones become crisp and exact and Duende state that this model is 'ideal to use as a drum kit substitute' and in smaller acoustic settings could certainly replicate kit sounds. **D**



## HEADS UP

### PRICES:

Classic	£145
Con Fusion	£176
Latino	£270

### UPBEATS:

- ▲ Build quality
- ▲ Pricing
- ▲ Con Fusion's dual-face playing surfaces
- ▲ Latino model richness of tone

### DOWNBEATS:

None

### CONTACT:

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