

Impostor "GK" 1960's Era sets

Here are two remarkably bad attempts at creating "Krupa" sets to be passed off as "genuine". Both sets are, of course, completely bogus.

The first one was last known to be 'bouncing around' in the UK as of 2015. The other appears to be somewhere in New York or New Jersey. Both are singularly terrible as far as any attempts to be believable. Due to some astonishing similarities in mistakes, the presumption is that they were both perpetrated by the same person. They will be referred to as "Exhibits 1 and 2".

Exhibit 1



Exhibit 2



EXHIBIT 1

This collection of drums had nothing to do with Gene Krupa. It would be easy enough to end with that opening statement, simply based on the photograph of the set above left. It is important, however, to explain, in detail, why this is a prime example of how people are taken advantage of. As this set has appeared to pass through, at least, two owners since its existence came to the attention of this author, those 'victims' figured it out just a bit too late.

In the following series of photos, the reader will recognize a few characteristics that are, by now, familiar. They will, however, be pointed out along with other details in the interest of being thorough. As far as what is correct, they indeed are WMP, '60's era Slingerland drums. They are also similar enough to (if not standing very close), the sets Gene used throughout the 1960's. A 14 X 22 bass drum, 16 X 16 floor tom, 9 X 13 mounted tom and 5.5 X 14 snare drum. In this instance, also including a canister throne that is a model Gene was seen using as of the end of that decade. This thicker foam padded, white seat cushion throne, however, was not seen in use with this era set but with his last set in the beginning of the 1970's.

The set appears to be a 'composite' of a few different periods. Although Gene was seen to have used a set or two that were pieced together from earlier parts, in the case of his '60's drums, he did not need to do so. As with other discussions, it's best to approach this one drum at a time. The easiest starting point is the 9 X 13 mounted tom. A very typical '60's era 13 and identical to the ones Gene used. It remains, however, no different than thousands of others and bears no clear proof

that it was ever anywhere near Gene. As it is stamped "FEB 1963" the only thing "known" about it is that, were it actually Krupa's, it would have appeared in many photos from then on. The author's WMP "fingerprint" tests show none of the 13's in original photos of Gene's sets from this period match this one.



Next is the 16 X 16. This drum has a few traits that put it immediately out of any possibility of having been one of Gene's. First, it is a few years older than the 13. This is clear due to the existence of the last 'generation' of the Todd 2 tone- control, Phillips-head lug casing mounting screws and "P-020" wrap designation stamp (no longer used by era of the 13. The leg brackets/legs, however, are nearly 10 years newer than the drum! If this is the (likely) '59 to '61 era shell it appears to be, the leg brackets would have been the "Push-button" models with straight legs. Gene would have had no need to make an upgrade such as this on his own drums.



He would have had the era appropriate floor tom and, if multiple copies of Slingerland drum orders for him from this period are to be believed, would have just received a COMPLETE set of the same vintage. All photos of Gene using a lone 16 show drums with hardware correct to the vintage of the rest of the set. All those that show it to be the Todd 2 muffler also show it to be a 20 X 20, not a 16. Of course, he had a 16 but for this late '50's up to '65 period, until '62-'63, he was still using the 20 exclusively.

Now, on to the 22 inch bass drum. Again, correct to the general 'era' this set is attempting to represent but it does have some serious 'issues' that most definitely remove it from being considered as a real "Krupa" drum.



First and foremost, of course, is the presence of another of those little aluminum shields. There are NO (that's none) photographs of Gene and his drums that show these things at all. The fact that this drum has one should be disqualification enough but there is much more.



Note the model tom mount and the (less yellowed) "footprint" closer to the center of the shell. No real GK drum shows this. There would have been no reason to move the rail over and there is no photographic evidence of it ever having been done. Note also the existence inside the shell of multiple "extra" holes where parts have been moved around including lower-line leg spur brackets on the bottom of the shell !



On to the snare drums. Two are displayed. One of which is one of the snares Bobby Grauso made for Gene. This item is likely to be the only item even related to Krupa. As mentioned earlier, Grauso built a number of snares for Gene starting in '63 and



each had this engraved brass plate on it.



Its presence in this collection proves nothing, however, as, if memory serves, it was added into the batch but did not originally come with the set.

The second snare drum is yet another with the bogus little shield and, other than it being a #153, "Artist" model of the period, is otherwise completely unremarkable.

And finally, the canister throne. As stated, Gene did not use a throne with a seat cushion like this until the beginning of the '70's and, by that time, he had already changed to a newer set with markedly different hardware attached. Although a nice looking canister throne, not Gene's.

In truth, this drum set being put to just the general 'standard' of most recent times would not do well in any resale due to all this repair/refitting evidence (the "extra holes" problem), let alone as one that was alleged to belong to Gene Krupa. It is remarkable to this author that such a scam would have any success whatsoever. Apparently though, it has.

Also apparent is that, to a lesser degree, so has the upcoming Exhibit 2.