

Rogers Drums
Big R Period
XP10 Ten Ply All Maple
Dyna-Sonic
SuperTen

The Rogers wood shelled Dyna-Sonic continues to be one of the most sought after snare drums by players and collectors alike. The prime period for collectors is the 1963-64 Cleveland era, three ply, Beavertail Lug drums. 64-66 late Cleveland and 67-69 Dayton era drums are almost as equally sought after. Following the move to Fullerton, California in 1969, along with the steadily gaining popularity of metal shelled snare drums, gradually fewer wood shelled Dyna-Sonics were produced.

Rogers Drums discontinued the maple wood shelled Dyna-Sonic around 1973. Perhaps this was due to the popularity of metal shell snare drums, the low number of wood snare drum sales, or the cost of producing wood shelled drums versus the brass shelled Dyna-Sonic. The wooden drum was naturally more labor intensive. The brass shell arrived at the factory already made and chromed, and the factory simply assembled the drum.

The Big R Period and Memrilock hardware began in 1975. The Dyna-Sonic remained the flagship snare drum. The SuperTen was "that other Rogers drum." 1979 saw the introduction of the XP8, eight ply, all North American Maple shell, manufactured by Keller. In November 1980, John Cermanaro (JC) joined the Rogers Drum Company in the research and development (R&D) department. Quality was excellent, edges were well done in Natural Maple, California Wine, and Tobacco Sunburst Maple lacquer finishes, and there was an expansion of the memrilock system. Photos taken in November 1980 by JC show several prototype hardware parts, and the next great Rogers presentation: the XP 10 snare drum. What is significant about this R&D photograph is that someone was messing around with the idea of bringing back a wood shelled snare drum in 1980. The Monster Set Poster was photographed in April 1981, to demonstrate the versatility of Memrilock Hardware. The snare drum featured in this poster is an XP10 Rogers 6.5x14 Dyna-Sonic. At the November 1981 PASIC show in Indianapolis, Rogers introduced the XP10 snare drums to the world. Displayed at the Rogers booth were Dyna-Sonic and SuperTen snare drums in 5, 6.5, and 8 inch depths.

There can be no separation in the R&D history of the XP10 Dyna-Sonic and SuperTen snare drums one from the other. They have an identical shell design, identical bearing edge design, and were introduced simultaneously into the market. Establishing a baseline for dating founded upon serial numbers is dependent upon the observation of drums still in the hands of original owners, or purchased from original owners, variations in construction, including lug isolator gasket felt color, presence or absence of dampener, and serial range of the drum. The production run for these snare drums spans 1981-1984. As for the use of serial numbers for dating, this is very accurate, and will become more accurate as we continue to learn more. I believe it will be possible to date drums to within a few months of actual manufacture.

These are the rarest of Rogers Dyna-Sonic and SuperTen snare drums. Sixties wood Dyna-Sonics greatly outnumber the XP10 series of drums. The most plentiful XP10 snare drums are the 8x14s, with the 6.5x14s coming in next. The rarest are the 5x14 Dyna-Sonic and SuperTen models. Very few were built, and they seldom come up for sale. The wood shell SuperTen is unique to the XP10 issue.

XP10 Rogers
Dyna-Sonic and SuperTen

Currently I own seven XP10 Rogers Snare Drums. Three are Dyna-Sonic, four are SuperTens. I purchased my first XP10 Rogers Dyna-Sonic in 2001. This drum was in fantastic condition, flawless, original, and, I believe, virtually unplayed. It came out of Reno, Nevada. This was the first drum of this type I had ever seen. Little was known at that time about these drums, simply because so few had been seen. Even now, ten years later, fewer than 75 of these drums in all sizes have been up for sale on eBay.



Rogers Dyna-Sonic 6.5x14 Serial Number D122346

This drum has the flat top, late issue Rogers hoops, black lug felts, no dampener, rivet top throw off knob, badge is slightly askew, brass grommet, and Dyna-Sonic Lug Locks. This is a late issue drum, made towards the end of Rogers production, late 1983-early 1984.

In 2010, I purchased Dyna-Sonic D122347 from a San Diego, California dealer. Provenance on this drum is unconfirmed, but according to him it was owned by Doug Clifford of CCR.

Construction of this drum is identical to D122346.



My third XP10 Dyna-Sonic is also a 6.5x14. This is Serial Number D114608. This drum came to me from its original owner who purchased it in Canada in 1984. It has black lug felts, flat top hoops, rivet top throw off knob, no dampener, brass grommet, and lug locks. There are two extra holes in the shell at the first panel to the left of the Snare Butt Mount from the original owner adding an aftermarket two screw dampener to the drum shortly after he acquired it. This drum dates to mid 1983.

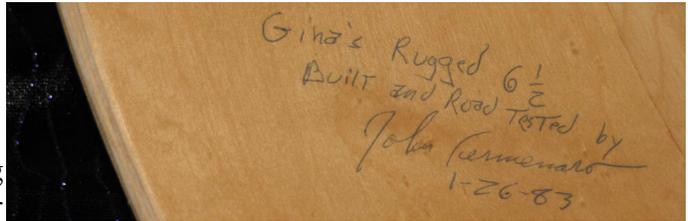
SuperTen 8x14 Serial Number RD978862

This drum has original round top hoops, no lug felts, dampener with rivet top knob, chrome grommet, and rivet top throw off knob. The only snare drum I currently own with which to compare it for construction details is a 6.5x14 Dyna-Sonic naked brass with serial number RD980347, which has the same round top Rogers profile hoops. I estimate these two drums to be early to mid 1982.



January 26, 1983
Gina Schock SuperTen
6.5x14
D101526

This drum is inscribed on the interior by John Cermenaro, the last Rogers R&D and Production Manager, for Gina Schock of The Go-Go's. This is a 6.5x14 SuperTen that has green lug felts, Dyna-Sonic lug locks, dampener which is missing the felt arm, rivet top knobs on both the dampener and throw off, flat top hoops. The dated inscription and serial number of this drum, have made it an excellent baseline for 1983 numbers. As an added plus, it offers a division between early and late XP10 construction. Two drums were built for Gina Schock in January 1983. The second drum is a one off split shell SuperTen in a reverse Tobacco Sunburst finish. It is also inscribed by John Cermenaro, and dated. That drum has the dampener knob present, and is missing the felt arm. It is believed they were removed by the artist.





SuperTen 6.5x14 Serial Number D102587

This SuperTen came to me from Palo Alto, California, I found it on a Craigslist ad. The drum is equipped with original flat top hoops, dampener with rivet top knob, rivet top knob on throw off, green felts, brass grommet. Dampener was removed from the drum when I got it, but the seller had saved it. Drum was being used in a studio environment.



SuperTen 8x14 Serial Number D110701

I acquired this 8x14 from a member of the Rogers Owners Forum. It has flat top hoops, no dampener, black felts, brass grommet, and rivet top knob. The finish on this drum has not mellowed to the same shade of honey maple as all the others. It is slightly blonder. I estimate mid to third quarter 1983.



That is a comprehensive rundown of my seven XP10 snare drums.

1982	SuperTen	RD978862	No Felt	Dampener	Round Top Hoops
1983	SuperTen	D101526	Green	Dampener	Flat Top Hoops
1983	SuperTen	D102587	Green	Dampener	Flat Top Hoops
1983	SuperTen	D110701	Black	No	Flat Top Hoops
1983	Dyna-Sonic	D114608	Black	No	Flat Top Hoops
1983/4	Dyna-Sonic	D122346	Black	No	Flat Top Hoops
1983/4	Dyna-Sonic	D122347	Black	No	Flat Top Hoops

The Collection of Thomas Taylor

A great deal of patient research on the XP10 snare drums was done by Thomas Taylor. I asked his permission to include his fantastic collection in this dating guide primarily because the guide would be incomplete without his input. Tom owns the only XP10 SuperTen 5x14 that has been seen up to this time. He is also the proud owner of an XP10 Dyna-Sonic 5x14. He has, quite probably, the most unique Rogers snare drum from this late Big R period.

This is the Gina Schock “split shell” Coliseum, the only snare drum of its kind known to exist built by Rogers. This drum, and the 6.5x14 SuperTen from my collection, are both inscribed by John Ceremenaro, January 26, 1983. This beautiful drum features black lug felts, rivet top knobs on throw off and dampener, and, like my own Gina drum, the dampener felt arm is missing.



1983 Rogers SuperTen 5x14
Serial Number D102400

No felt, flat top hoops, rivet top knobs on throw off and dampener. This is an excellent example of the rarest production drum made by Rogers.



Tom also has one of the few 5x14 XP10 Dyna-Sonic snare drums. Green felt, rivet top knobs, flat top hoops. D104617. This drum is one of those that will always seem to turn up. Being a mid 1983 drum, one would expect to see black felts, and these are green.



My special thanks to Tom for so graciously allowing me to use his drums as part of this guide. Without his contribution, this would have been rather incomplete. Also, Tom has been one of the most important researchers on XP10 snare drums. It was his discovery that the shells, and snare bed profile on the XP10 Dyna-Sonic and SuperTen are identical, and Tom solidly established the “no serial” badge as being 1980.

There are several other drums we could look at, but they all display the same characteristics as these drums in the same serial ranges. The exceptions being, drums that have replacement parts, drums that have had felts removed, and possibly drums that have had felts replaced with felt of a different color.

For dating purposes here is how I estimate them:

Late 1981	Drums below the RD960000 range
1982	Any drum below D100000. These drums may all possibly bear an RD lettered serial number block.
1983- 3/84	Drums between D100000 and approx D125000.

The Chrome Grommet.

Badge grommets below D101526 and D102587 will be chrome, and those above will be brass. I am not sure of the exact number here. Chrome grommets continued to be used, and some drums in the upper serial range will have chrome instead of brass.

Some RD badged drums do not have felts. SuperTen and Dyna-Sonic snare drums prior to somewhere between SN D1093xx and D110701 will have green felt. Somewhere between those two numbers and up, will be black felt. Of course, there are drums in either direction that will have the other. The predominant color is what I am representing here as the norm, based on the total of drums observed so far. Am I correct in every aspect? Probably not. Will there be improvements as collectors gain more interest in these drums, and more drums come to light? Yes, definitely.

I want to thank everyone who helped with this article by contributing data over the years. A special thanks to the Rogers Owners Forum.