

Roland SPD-SX vs Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 Electronic Drum Pad: Specs & Price

Meta Description: Compare Roland SPD-SX Pro vs Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 drum sampling pads. Get expert analysis of pad configuration, sound libraries, sampling, and pricing.



Alt text: Roland SPD-SX Pro.

Key Takeaways

- The Roland SPD-SX Pro offers massive 32GB internal storage, holding approximately 44 hours of audio, while the Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 provides 1,277 sounds with user sample-loading capability.
- Roland provides 9 pads expandable to 19 playing surfaces with customizable multi-color trigger lights, while Yamaha offers 12 pads in a split-level configuration optimized for both stick and hand playing.
- The SPD-SX Pro excels for drummers who need extensive backing-track playback and custom sample integration, while the DTX-Multi 12 serves percussionists who want immediate access to more sounds via additional pads.
- Roland includes 1,550+ sounds, 200 kit presets, and advanced effects (reverb, delay, distortion, sidechain compression), while Yamaha focuses on versatility across acoustic kit expansion, hand percussion, and studio applications.
- [Sam Ash](#) retails both electronic percussion pads, with expert guidance, a 45-day return policy, and free shipping on orders over \$49.99.

Two Approaches to Electronic Percussion

Electronic percussion pads have become essential tools for modern drummers, whether expanding an acoustic kit, creating hybrid setups, or building complete electronic percussion rigs.

The Roland SPD-SX Pro and Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 represent two of the most capable options, each optimized for different priorities.

The Roland SPD-SX Pro is engineered for drummers who need serious sampling capability. Its 32GB internal memory, extensive sample library, advanced effects processing, and expandability to 19 playing surfaces make it the choice for performers who rely on custom samples, backing tracks, and complex productions.

The Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 prioritizes immediate versatility with 12 pads in a split-level configuration designed for both stick and hand playing. Its comprehensive sound library and ability to load user samples serve drummers wanting quick access to diverse sounds without the complexity of deep sampling workflows.

Sam Ash: 100 Years of Music Expertise, Now Online
Your Trusted Music Store Is Back – Stronger Than Ever

**Perfect Gear for Every Musician:**

- **[Electronic Drums](#)**: Complete selection from beginner-friendly kits to professional studio setups. Get the authentic acoustic feel with modern convenience – perfect for home practice and recording.
- **[Digital Pianos & Stage Keyboards](#)**: Portable alternatives to premium acoustic pianos without sacrificing sound quality. Ideal for home players, live performers, and studio work.
- **[Synthesizers & Music Production](#)**: A full range of analog and digital synths, grooveboxes, and production gear for beat-making, sound design, and studio sessions.
- **[Professional Recording Gear](#)**: Everything you need for your home studio setup, from interfaces to monitors, backed by expert consultation for high-value purchases.

Why Musicians Choose Sam Ash:

- ✓ Family-owned U.S.A. 100-year legacy of music expertise
- ✓ Personalized service and help from fellow pro musicians
- ✓ Multiple financing options: 0% interest financing, no-credit financing, buy-now-pay-later
- ✓ Large selection from the best brands in music and sound
- ✓ Fast, free shipping on 1000s of items within the USA
- ✓ Famous flash sales and mega deals

Get Expert Guidance:

Whether you're a savvy musician seeking confirmation or a beginner needing guidance, our Gear Expert Team helps ensure you make the right choice for your music and budget. From bedroom producers to professional studios – we've got your sound covered.

[SHOP SAM ASH NOW →](#)

Roland SPD-SX Pro: The Ultimate Sampling Pad



Caption: The Roland SPD-SX Pro represents the pinnacle of electronic percussion sampling technology.

Alt text: Roland SPD-SX Pro.

Designed for drummers who need maximum flexibility, extensive storage, and professional-grade effects, the SPD-SX Pro handles everything from simple sound triggering to complex multi-track performances.

Massive Sample Storage

[The SPD-SX Pro](#)'s defining characteristic is its 32GB internal memory, a specification that transforms what performing drummers can accomplish on stage. This capacity stores approximately 44 hours of 48kHz/16-bit stereo audio, accommodating entire show libraries, multiple song sets, and extensive custom sample collections without concern for space limitations.

The unit imports WAV, AIFF, and MP3 files with automatic format conversion and seamlessly handles varying bit rates. Most importantly, this internal storage eliminates the need for external devices during performance, reducing potential failure points when reliability matters most.

Extensive Sound Library

Beyond user samples, the SPD-SX Pro arrives ready for immediate creative exploration. Over 1,550 onboard samples span drums, percussion, effects, and beyond, while 200 preset kit patches provide instant inspiration.

Sample tags enable quick sorting and searching, letting you spend less time scrolling through menus and more time performing.

9 Pads Expandable to 19 Surfaces

The SPD-SX Pro's nine incredibly responsive pads establish a solid foundation, but expansion options dramatically multiply your playing surfaces. Each onboard pad features customizable multi-color trigger lights for visual identification.

Footswitch inputs and external trigger connections expand the maximum configuration to 19 playing surfaces, allowing you to add snare and kick pads for a mini drum kit setup. An expression pedal input enables real-time control of effects, further expanding creative possibilities.

Professional Effects Processing

Roland's effects expertise translates directly into the SPD-SX Pro's processing capabilities. Per-pad effects include reverb, delay, and distortion assignable to any pad or external trigger within each kit.

Output processing adds compression, EQ, and sidechain compression to prevent your kick from getting buried in the mix, with master output control ensuring consistent levels.

Yamaha DTX-Multi 12: Versatile Multi-Pad Performance



Caption: The Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 takes a different approach, prioritizing pad count and versatility over sampling depth.

Alt text: Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 Drum Sampling Pad.

Its 12-pad split-level configuration serves drummers who want more immediate playing surfaces and the flexibility to play with sticks or hands.

12 Pads in Split-Level Configuration

The [DTX-Multi 12's](#) defining characteristic is its generous 12-pad layout arranged in a compact split-level configuration.

This ergonomic design accommodates both stick and hand playing comfortably, placing more sounds within immediate reach without requiring kit switching. The natural playing position supports diverse percussion techniques, making transitions between different sounds feel intuitive rather than forced.

Comprehensive Sound Library

Yamaha equips the DTX-Multi 12 with an extensive collection ready for immediate performance. The library contains 1,277 total sounds spanning drums, percussion, and effects across diverse categories, including acoustic drums, world percussion, and electronic textures. User sample loading capability lets you go beyond the factory library, triggering your own sounds from any of the 12 pads.

Stick or Hand Playing

Unlike some electronic pads optimized exclusively for stick technique, the DTX-Multi 12 responds equally well to traditional drumstick playing, hand percussion approaches, finger techniques, and combination methods. This dual capability expands the instrument's usefulness across musical styles and individual playing preferences.

Compact & Portable

The DTX-Multi 12's design emphasizes portability without sacrificing functionality. Despite housing 12 pads, the unit maintains a compact footprint that makes it easy to transport to gigs and sessions. Quick setup and teardown minimize transition time, and the form factor integrates smoothly into existing kit configurations.

Pricing: Which Pad Gives You More for Your Money?

The Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 is currently available at Sam Ash for \$659.99, making it the stronger value pick for drummers who want more pads, versatile playing options, and a wide range of sound variety without breaking the bank. If you're just getting into electronic percussion or need a reliable kit expansion on a budget, the DTX-Multi 12 is hard to beat at this price.

The Roland SPD-SX Pro is priced at \$1,499.99, but if you're a working performer who depends on custom samples, backing tracks, and professional effects, the extra investment pays for itself quickly. Both kits are available through Sam Ash financing, and all orders over \$49.99 ship free.

Overall Comparison: Roland SPD-SX vs Yamaha DTX Multi 12 Electronic Drum Pad

Feature	Roland SPD-SX Pro	Yamaha DTX-Multi 12
Sam Ash Price	\$1,499.99	\$659.99 (save \$246.41)
MSRP	\$1,499.99	\$906.40
Number of Pads	9	12

Expandable To	19 playing surfaces	Not specified
Internal Storage	32GB (~44 hours audio)	User sample loading
Onboard Sounds	1,550+	1,277
Kit Presets	200	Multiple presets
Sample Import	WAV, AIFF, MP3	User samples
Effects	Reverb, delay, distortion, compression, EQ, sidechain	Standard effects
Trigger Lights	Customizable multi-color	Standard
Display	Large color display	Standard display
Playing Style	Optimized for sticks	Sticks or hands
Expression Pedal	Yes (for FX control)	Not specified

Why Buy Your Electronic Percussion from Sam Ash

Selecting the right [electronic percussion pad](#) requires understanding how different designs serve different performance goals, and we bring the expertise to guide that decision.

Our Gear Expert Team includes experienced drummers and percussionists who recognize the distinctions between sampling-focused units and versatility-focused multi-pads. They can demonstrate how each approach addresses specific performance requirements and help you identify the instrument that fits your workflow.

Our 45-day [return policy](#) provides the flexibility to integrate your new pad into your existing setup, test it during rehearsals and performances, and confirm it meets your needs before making a final commitment.

[At Sam Ash](#), we extend additional value beyond the initial purchase. [Free shipping](#) applies to all orders over \$49.99, and our century-plus history as a family-owned business reflects a deep commitment to serving drummers since 1924.

After your gear arrives, our support team remains available to assist with setup, sample loading, integrating your instrument into your rig, or any other questions that arise as you explore your instrument's capabilities.

[Shop our electronic drum pad collection today!](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can I load my own samples on both units?

Yes, both support user sample loading. The SPD-SX Pro offers 32GB internal storage with WAV, AIFF, and MP3 support and automatic format conversion. The DTX-Multi 12 allows user sample loading, but with a more limited capacity. For extensive custom sample libraries, the SPD-SX Pro is the clear choice.

Can I play the DTX-Multi 12 with my hands?

Yes, the DTX-Multi 12 is specifically designed for both stick and hand playing. Its split-level pad configuration accommodates hand percussion techniques, making it ideal for percussionists who don't exclusively use sticks.

Which has better effects?

The Roland SPD-SX Pro significantly outperforms in effects capability, offering per-pad reverb/delay/distortion, output compression and EQ, sidechain compression, and expression pedal control. The DTX-Multi 12 includes standard effects but without the depth or professional features of the Roland.

How many sounds does each include?

The Roland SPD-SX Pro comes loaded with over 1,550 onboard sounds, 200 preset kits, and 32GB of internal storage for adding your own user samples. The Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 includes 1,277 built-in sounds and also supports user sample loading. While both offer a substantial sound library out of the box, the SPD-SX Pro provides a larger selection and far more room for expansion.

Which is more portable?

The DTX-Multi 12 is more compact despite having more pads (12 vs 9). The SPD-SX Pro is slightly larger due to its expanded features, display, and storage. Both are reasonably portable, but the DTX-Multi 12 has the edge for tight setups. At [Sam Ash](#), we offer both drum pads at the best prices with multiple financing options and free shipping on orders over \$49.99.

***Note:** Pricing and/or product availability mentioned in this post are subject to change. Please check our [website](#) for current pricing and stock information before making a purchase.