

Roland SPD-SX PRO vs Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 Drum Sampling Pad: Differences, Specs & Reviews

Meta Description: Compare Roland SPD-SX Pro vs Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 drum sampling pads. See how storage, pad count, sound quality, connectivity, and pricing stack up.



Alt text: Top view of the Roland SPD-SX Pro.

Key Takeaways

- The Roland SPD-SX Pro offers a massive 32GB storage capacity (approximately 44 hours of audio) compared to the Yamaha DTX-Multi 12's 64MB, making Roland superior for extensive sample libraries and backing tracks.
- The DTX-Multi 12 features 12 highly responsive pads in a three-tier layout optimized for finger drumming and hand percussion, while the SPD-SX Pro has 9 pads with customizable multi-color LED lighting for dark stage visibility.
- For studio production and live performance with backing tracks, the SPD-SX Pro's advanced sampling capabilities and direct USB import provide a significant workflow advantage.
- At [Sam Ash](#), you can get both percussion controllers with expert guidance, 45-day returns, and free shipping.

Battle of the Drum Pads: Roland SPD-SX PRO vs. Yamaha DTX-Multi 12

The Roland SPD-SX Pro builds on the legacy of its predecessor as the industry standard for triggering samples and loops, while the Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 has earned recognition for its exceptional playability and versatility in percussion applications.

Roland's SPD-SX Pro represents the premium end of the market, catering to professional touring musicians and producers who need robust sample manipulation in live settings. With its extensive storage, intuitive workflow, and rock-solid reliability, it's designed to handle demanding performance environments.

Yamaha's DTX-Multi 12 takes a different approach, focusing on an authentic percussion feel with its 12-pad configuration, which excels at finger-drumming techniques and traditional hand percussion emulation.

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Roland SPD-SX Pro: Features & Capabilities



Caption: The SPD-SX Pro is the ultimate sampling pad for drummers who need extensive sample libraries, backing track playback, and professional connectivity.

Alt text: Roland SPD-SX Pro.

Massive Library of Sounds

The [SPD-SX Pro](#) comes loaded with over 1,550 samples and 200 preset kits, giving you plenty of options for maximum creativity. You can sort and search sounds with sample tags, spending less time scrolling and more time performing.

Direct USB Sample Import

One of the SPD-SX Pro's most significant workflow advantages is direct USB sample import without requiring a computer connection.

1. Insert a USB drive containing your samples into the USB port.
2. Navigate to the Import function in the menu.
3. Select the samples you want to load.
4. Assign them to your chosen pads.

Customizable Multi-Color LED Lighting

The customizable RGB lighting system surrounds each pad, programmable to indicate different kits, samples, or functions. In dark stage environments, this feature proves invaluable for instant pad identification without memorizing complex setups.

Yamaha DTX-Multi 12: Features & Capabilities



Caption: The DTX-Multi 12 is an incredibly versatile percussion pad perfect for acoustic drummers adding electronic elements, hand percussionists, and studio musicians needing diverse sounds.

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

Endless Creativity with 1,277 Sounds

[The DTX-Multi 12](#) features a full library of 1,277 drum, percussion, and effects sounds. If you want to expand further, you can load your own samples triggered from any of the 12 pads.

Superior Finger Drumming Response

The silicone pad material provides a more forgiving surface for finger techniques, with a slight give that feels more natural than harder rubber surfaces. Sensitivity settings can be calibrated specifically for finger playing, capturing subtle grace notes and ghost notes.

iOS Touch App Integration

Yamaha includes a dedicated iOS Touch App for programming and sound design, providing a modern touch-based interface that significantly improves workflow compared to working through the unit's LCD screen.

Memory Difference: Roland SPD-SX PRO 32GB vs. DTX-Multi 12's 64MB



Caption: The Roland SPD-SX Pro carries a massive 32GB of internal storage, a standout specification that allows performers to load entire song libraries and multi-layered samples.

Alt text: Roland SPD-SX Pro.

Roland SPD-SX Pro Storage

The SPD-SX Pro's 32GB of internal memory translates to approximately 44 hours of 48kHz/16-bit stereo audio, enough to fill a serious performance rig without compromise. It supports WAV, AIFF, and MP3 files, automatically converting formats on import, and allows direct USB transfer without ever needing a computer connection.

Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 Storage

The DTX-Multi 12 tells a very different story. Its 64MB of total storage reserves just 4MB for user samples, yielding roughly two minutes of stereo audio. Sample transfers require a computer connection and support only WAV files, adding friction to an already constrained workflow.

This low storage represents approximately 512 times more storage in the Roland, translating to roughly 1,320 times more audio capacity, which is perhaps the most significant technical distinction between these instruments.

Pad Configuration Difference: 9 Pads vs. 12 Pads

Roland SPD-SX Pro: 9-Pad Grid Layout

Roland's SPD-SX Pro features 9 velocity-sensitive pads arranged in a familiar 3×3 grid, optimized for stick playing and consistent performance. The central pad is larger, providing a focal point for main sounds or loops.

9-Pad Advantages

- Familiar grid layout for quick navigation
- Adequate spacing minimizes accidental triggers
- Customizable multi-color LED lighting per pad
- Large color display for visual feedback
- Optimized for stick technique

Yamaha DTX-Multi 12: 12-Pad Three-Tier Layout

Yamaha's DTX-Multi 12 offers 12 pads in an ergonomically stepped configuration that particularly excels for hand percussion and finger techniques. The increased pad count provides more immediate access to sounds without switching banks.

12-Pad Advantages

- Three-tiered layout mimics hand drum positioning
- More immediate access to diverse sounds
- Silicone-based pads for natural rebound
- Superior for finger drumming techniques
- Stepped configuration for expressive playing

Overall Comparison Table: Roland SPD-SX PRO vs Yamaha DTX-Multi 12

Feature	Roland SPD-SX Pro	Yamaha DTX-Multi 12
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Sam Ash Price	\$1,499.99	\$659.99 (save \$246.41)
Number of Pads	9 pads	12 pads
Internal Storage	32GB (~44 hours audio)	64MB (4MB for samples)
Total Sounds	1,550+ sounds	1,277 sounds
Preset Kits	200 kits	Multiple preset kits
LED Lighting	Customizable multi-color	No
Sample Import	Direct USB (no computer)	Requires computer
Best For	Samplers, producers	Percussionists, finger drummers

What Users Are Saying

Roland SPD-SX Pro

Working drummers love the SPD-SX Pro. Veterans who gig regularly describe it as a setup-simplifier, and upgraders from the original SPD-SX are almost universally impressed by how much the unit has improved. Pad feel, and the color display gets frequent praise. The main gripe is the price; most agree it's worth it for serious performers, but hobbyists often feel it's more than they need.

Yamaha DTX-Multi 12

The DTX-Multi 12 has a loyal fan base, especially among hand percussionists and drummers who rely on factory sounds. The built-in sound library gets consistent praise for its quality and variety. The recurring complaint is the menu system; users broadly agree it's frustrating to navigate, and many recommend using the phone app instead. The limited sample storage is the other sticking point, particularly for players who want to load their own sounds. Those who stick to factory presets rarely have issues with them.

Why Buy Your Sampling Pad from Sam Ash

At Sam Ash, our Gear Expert team includes experienced drummers and percussionists who understand the critical differences between sampling-focused and playability-focused controllers, and can demonstrate how each responds to stick playing, hand percussion, and finger drumming techniques.

They can also walk you through the configuration process for either instrument to suit your specific performance or studio needs, covering everything from trigger sensitivity calibration and kit organisation to MIDI routing for DAW control and integration with acoustic drum setups.

If you need time to evaluate your choice, our 45-day [return policy](#) allows you to incorporate the sampling pad into your setup, bring it to rehearsals, and confirm it satisfies your performance demands before making a final commitment. We also offer multiple financing options and free shipping on orders over \$49.99, delivering your new gear at no additional cost.

[Are you ready to upgrade your drum sampling pad? Shop our collection today!](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Can the Roland SPD-SX PRO import samples directly without a computer?

Yes, the Roland SPD-SX Pro can import samples directly from a USB flash drive without requiring a computer connection. The unit supports common audio formats, including WAV, AIFF, and MP3, automatically converting them to its internal format during import.

Is the Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 suitable for finger drumming techniques?

The Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 excels at finger drumming techniques. Its silicone pad material is specifically designed to accommodate hand percussion approaches, offering a slightly softer response than traditional rubber surfaces. The pads provide better tactile feedback and comfort during extended finger drumming sessions.

How much sample time can the Roland SPD-SX PRO store compared to the DTX-Multi 12?

The Roland SPD-SX Pro provides approximately 44 hours of stereo audio storage at 48kHz/16-bit quality within its 32GB internal memory. By comparison, the Yamaha DTX-Multi 12 offers 64MB total memory with only 4MB reserved for user samples, translating to roughly 2 minutes of stereo audio.

Can either of these pads function as a standalone instrument without additional gear?

Yes, both function as standalone instruments with only basic amplification required. Each unit includes built-in sound libraries, processing capabilities, and output options, eliminating the need for external sound sources. Simply connect either device to a keyboard amplifier, PA system, or powered speakers. Both controllers include headphone outputs for silent practice. At [Sam Ash](#), we offer both instruments at the best prices with a Gear Expert Team available to help you make the right choice.

*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.