

Care and Maintenance of the Snare Drum

You Will Need:

- 1) Drum key.
- 2) Towel.
- 3) Clean cloth.
- 4) Vaseline.

Basic Care

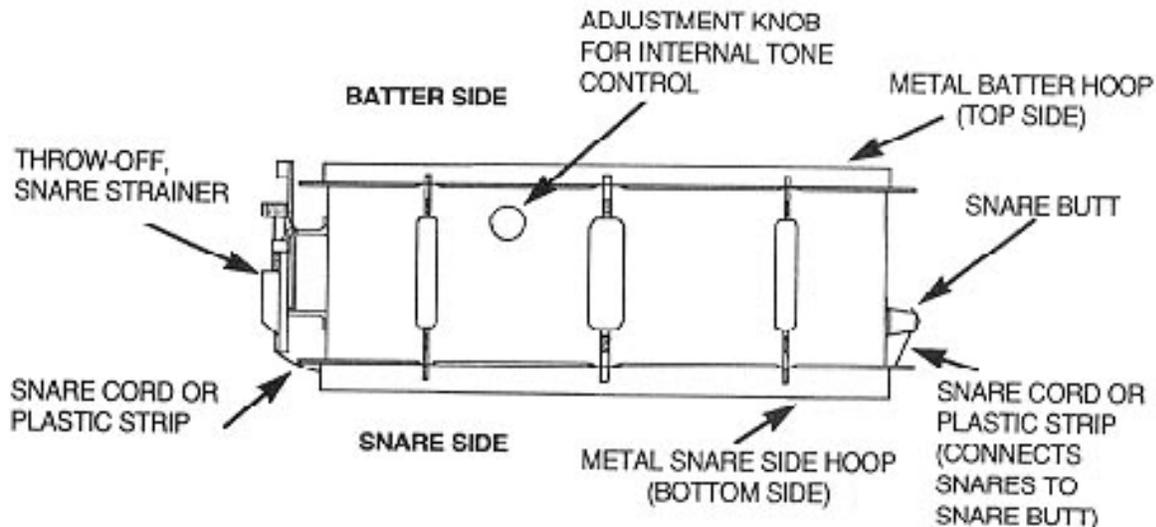
- 1) Never put heavy or pointed objects on the head. Do not use your drum as a table for writing.
- 2) Do not over tighten the drum heads or snare strainer.
- 3) Use a case when transporting your drum.
 - Lay your case flat on the floor before opening it. Do not let it “fall” open.

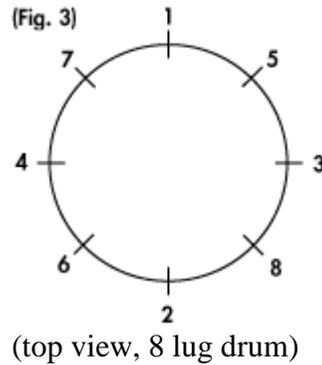
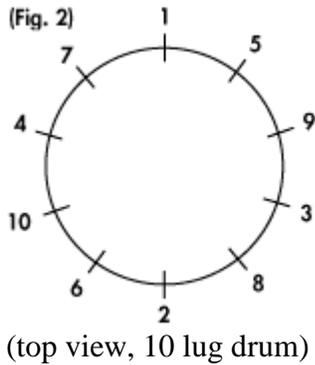
Weekly Care

- 1) Check the batter head for weak areas and splits.
- 2) Check the snare head for splits.
- 3) Make sure the snare cord is not slipping or split.
- 4) Be sure all the tension rods are tight.
- 5) Make sure your drum stand is solid.
 - Inspect for stripped wing nuts.
- 6) Be sure the drum is securely held by the stand.
 - Do not put the stand grips on any part of the snares or snare cords.

Monthly Cleaning

- 1) Wipe the instrument clean with a soft cloth. Be sure to get under the lugs and screws.





Every Six Months

Read all of this before you start. You don't want to be halfway through and realize you don't understand something.

- 1) Unscrew all of the top tension rods and remove the counterhoop and batter head.
- 2) Wash the head with warm, soapy water.
- 3) Dry the head with a towel.
- 4) Wipe out the inside of the drum with a clean cloth.
- 5) Wipe the counterhoop clean.
- 6) Wipe the tension rods clean.
- 7) Place the head back on the shell and place the counterhoop over it. Make sure it is centered.
- 8) Before replacing the tension rods, put a little Vaseline on the threads. This will make it easier to loosen them in the future.
- 9) Tighten all of the tension rods as tight as you can with your fingers using the order shown in Figure 2 or 3.
- 10) Tap two inches away from the first lug with a stick and tighten that screw until you get a sound you like.
- 11) Do the same for every screw, following the order shown in Figure 2 or 3. All points should sound the same.
- 12) Press down in the center of the head firmly to seat the head.
- 13) Double check steps 10 and 11.
 - Do not use too much tension or you will choke the tone.
 - If you have to put the snare head on too, tune it about an octave higher than the batter head.

TO PUT ON A NEW DRUM HEAD – follow all these steps, but don't wash the head.

Regular Check-ups

To keep your instrument in top working condition, have it checked by a qualified repair person once per year (Winter Break is better than Summer, repair shops are not as busy). Regular maintenance keeps an instrument in good playing condition for a period of years, rather than allowing it gradually to deteriorate, becoming more difficult to play and more expensive to repair.