

# Care and Maintenance of the Snare Drum

## You Will Need:

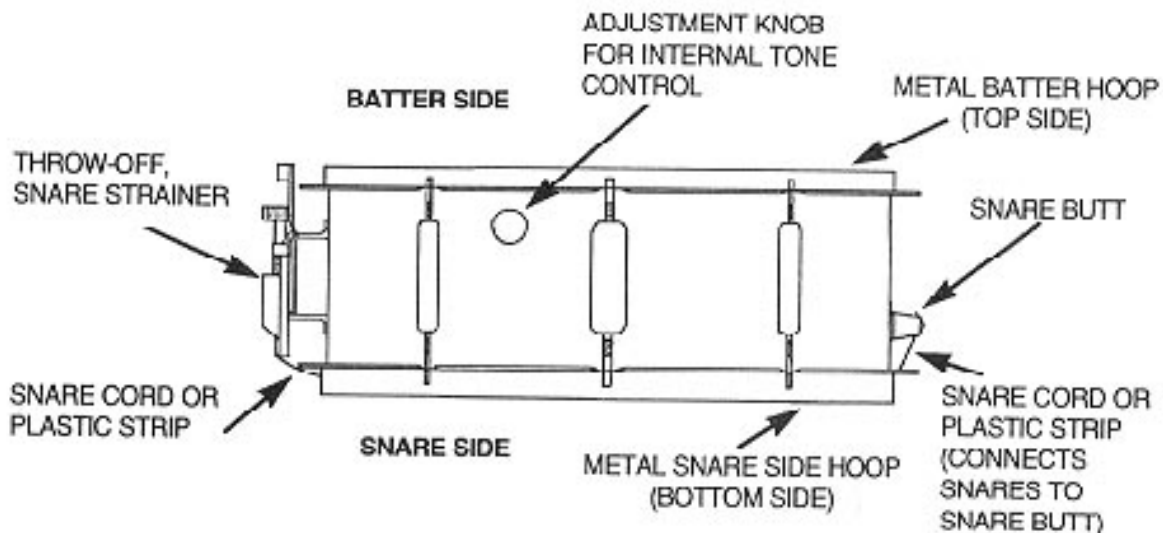
- 1) Drum key
- 2) Hand towel
- 3) Clean cloth
- 4) Vaseline
- 5) Screwdriver

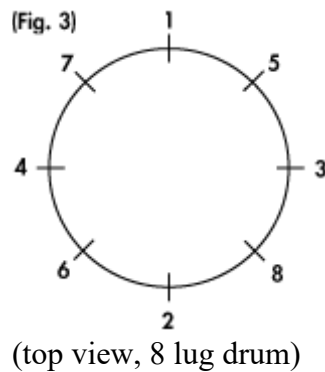
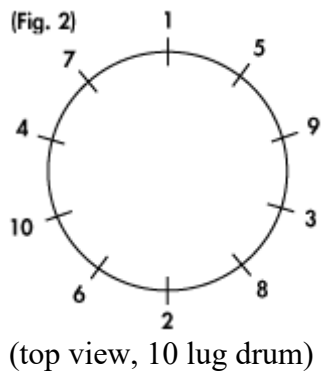
## Basic Care

- 1) Never put heavy or pointed objects on the drum. 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.
- 4) Lay your case flat on the floor before opening it. Do not let it “fall” open.
- 5) Your drum stand should only touch the hoop, not the snare head, snare cord or snare wires.
  - Check that the basket arms are high enough that the center of the basket isn't touching the snare wires.
- 6) Your drum stand should be stable.

## Monthly Care

- 1) Check the batter head for weak areas and splits.
- 2) Check the snare head for splits and dents.
- 3) Make sure the snare cord is not slipping or split.
- 4) Check your snare wires are flat against the head and not bent or broken.
- 5) Be sure all the tension rods are tight, especially the bottom ones which can fall out and be lost.
- 6) Wipe the instrument clean with a soft cloth. Be sure to get under the tension rods.





### **Once a Year (or sooner if you play a lot and hard) – Replace batter head**

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 batter hoop and batter head.
- 2) Dump out any debris inside the drum and wipe out the inside of the drum with a hand towel.
- 3) Wipe the hoop clean.
- 4) Wipe the tension rods clean.
- 5) Center the new head on the shell and place the hoop over it. Make sure the label is facing the way you want.
- 6) Before replacing the tension rods, put a little Vaseline on the threads. This will make it easier to loosen them in the future.
- 7) Tighten all of the tension rods as tight as you can with your fingers. Do two at once, one with each hand, on opposite sides.
- 8) Using a drum key, tighten each rod about 3 half-turns using the order shown in Figure 2 or 3.
- 9) Check to see what note the drum is playing. You want the note G. If it's close go on to step 10. If not, give each rod another half-turn in order shown above and check the note again. Repeat until close to G.
  - NOTE: it doesn't have to be G. Anywhere from E to B flat is fine, depending on your preference. G is in the middle, so I suggested that note.
- 10) Tap one inch away from the rim by the first rod with a stick and tighten that rod until you hear the note G.
  - At this point, make very small adjustments with the drum key.
- 11) Do the same for every rod. All points should sound the same.
- 12) Check the tuning again in a week or so, after the head has had time to settle.

### **Every 2 Years (or sooner if you play a lot)**

Replace your snare head. You will need to unscrew the snare cord from the snare butt and replace it after. Tune the snare head to a higher note than your batter head.

When you want to check the tuning of the snare head, you can loosen the snare strainer and place a stick across the drum under the snares to hold them off the head while you work.