

PERCUSSION / SNARE DRUM

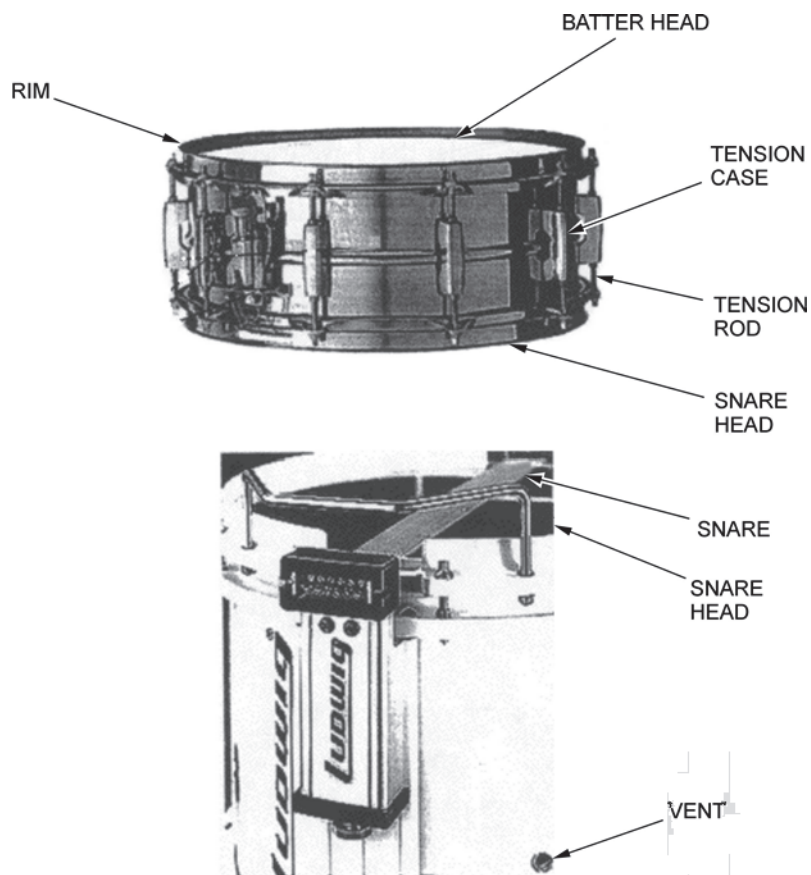


Figure 20 The Parts of the Snare Drum

Note. Created by Director Cadets 3, 2004, Ottawa, ON: Department of National Defence.

Assembly

To assemble percussion instruments, use the following steps:

1. Set the instrument case on a flat and stable surface. Make sure the case is facing up. The case latches are the best indication to verify this. Open the case.
2. Put the harness or shoulder strap around the shoulders and attach the instrument to it.
3. Adjust the harness or shoulder strap so that the weight of the instrument is on it and the instrument is at the proper height to be able to play with the upper body and the neck straight.

Disassembly

The disassembly process is the reverse of the assembly process.

Storage

Most drum or mallet percussion cases are designed to fit only the instrument, and maintenance supplies. Storing anything else in the case may cause damage to the instrument.



Many snare drums or glockenspiels do not have cases. These instruments should be stored with care to avoid damage.

TYPES AND SELECTION OF DRUMSTICKS



There are several varieties and brands of drumsticks. To play efficiently and effectively, the most appropriate drumstick for the style of music must be selected.

TYPES OF WOODS USED

There are three main types of wood used to make drumsticks. When selecting a drumstick, consider the following:

Maple. A lightweight wood that has excellent flexibility and absorbs energy (feel less of the effects of the hit in your hands).

Hickory. The most common and versatile wood with limited energy absorption and flex (drumstick bends slightly when hit).

Oak. A durable wood that is difficult to break and has poor energy absorption.



Ensure the drumsticks are labelled with which wood they are made of to avoid selecting ones that are composed of blended wood.

TYPES OF DRUMSTICK TIPS

There are two types of tips to choose from. When selecting a drumstick consider the following:

Wood. The most common tip chosen for most applications. This tip may chip after extensive use. Wood-tipped drumsticks are preferred for marching bands.

Nylon. A great tip to use on the cymbals, producing brilliant, crisp tones and getting better rebound. This tip is more durable than a wood tip, but may fall off the drumstick.

SHAPES OF DRUMSTICK TIPS

There are four shapes of tips to choose from. When selecting a drumstick consider the following:

Oval. A rounded tip used for most styles, producing a softer, warmer tone with great bounce and a light feel.



Figure 21 Oval Drumstick Tip

Note. From *Rock Drumming Underground*. Retrieved May 1, 2008, from <http://www.rockdrummingsystem.com/underground/drum-articles/choosing-the-right-drumsticks.php>

Mushroom. A durable, well-balanced stick most commonly used for rock drumming, producing a loud, full sound with good sound response.



Figure 22 Mushroom Drumstick Tip

Note. From *Rock Drumming Underground*. Retrieved May 1, 2008, from <http://www.rockdrummingsystem.com/underground/drum-articles/choosing-the-right-drumsticks.php>

Fat. A very durable and slightly heavy tip, producing a loud, full sound. Used for corps / squadron drumming. This tip is great for cymbal crashing but hard on drumheads.



Figure 23 Fat Drumstick Tip

Note. From *Rock Drumming Underground*. Retrieved May 1, 2008, from <http://www.rockdrummingsystem.com/underground/drum-articles/choosing-the-right-drumsticks.php>

Ball. A weak tip with excellent bounce and response, producing a crisp, bright sound. It is great for cymbals and most commonly used for jazz or snare drumming.



Figure 24 Ball Drumstick Tip

Note. From *Rock Drumming Underground*. Retrieved May 1, 2008, from <http://www.rockdrummingsystem.com/underground/drum-articles/choosing-the-right-drumsticks.php>

SIZE OF DRUMSTICKS

There are three main drumstick size categories. When selecting a drumstick consider the following:

7a. This is a thin light drumstick meant for a softer sound. This size works great for jazz drumming or younger drummers.

5a. This is the most common drumstick. Medium thickness, allows for both loud and soft play. This size is great for rock drumming.

2b and 5b. These are a thick drumstick. They allow for loud drumming and are ideal for heavy rock and marching bands.



If drumsticks are constantly breaking, check the technique before changing to a heavier drumstick. With proper technique, drumsticks should seldom break.

Maintenance

Drumsticks and mallets are essential tools when playing percussion instruments. Contrary to the instruments themselves, drumsticks and mallets wear down and must be replaced regularly. It is important to take care of these tools.

Drumsticks and mallets should be kept clean, dry and properly stored when not in use. As they are round, they are prone to rolling off and falling off tables if left lying around. Drumsticks and mallets are designed to work as pairs. They should be kept together to avoid being mixed up with other drumsticks or mallets.

It is important that drumsticks and mallets are only used to play on the surfaces for which they were designed.

- **Drumsticks.** They should only be used on percussion instruments such as snare drums, tenor drums, cymbals or drum sets as well as practice pads.
- **Mallets.** Most mallets are designed to play on specific instruments (eg, xylophone mallets should not be used on a tympani or bass drum).

Playing on other surfaces could damage the tip of the drumsticks or mallets. Small particles of wood or pebbles could also get stuck on the tip of a drumstick or mallet and damage the surface of the instrument.

CLEANING OF A DRUMHEAD

Modern snare drum batter heads are resilient and little maintenance is required to keep them in good condition. Cadets should only use a cloth to clean the batter head. No other cleaning product should be used.



Traditionally, snare drum batter heads were made of animal skins. Modern snare drum batter heads are made of synthetic materials and are more durable.

To clean a drumhead, use a wet damp cloth, and wipe in a circular motion.