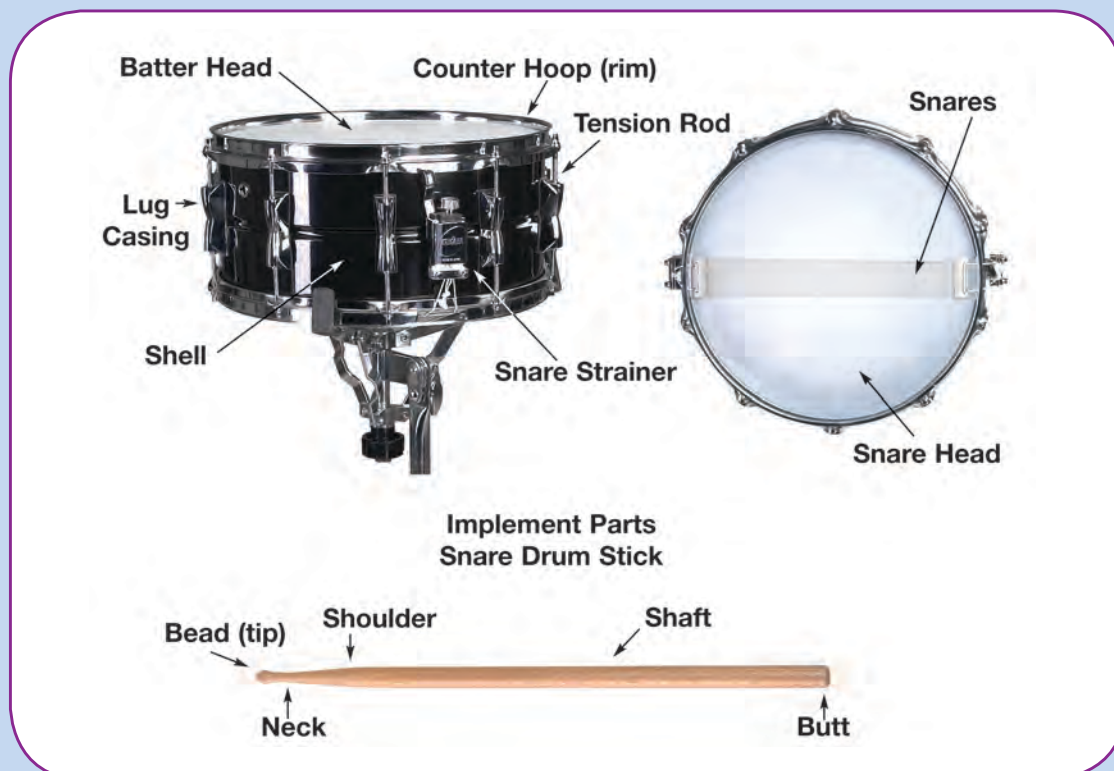


The Art of Playing Snare Drum

Instrument and Parts



Assembly Procedure

1. The snare drum should be flat and parallel to the floor with the snare strainer placed directly in front of the player.
2. Adjust the stand to bring the top head to approximately waist level or slightly below.
3. It may be helpful to mark the stand height with a felt marker to ensure a consistent setup every time the instrument is assembled. This can be checked from time to time as you grow.

Disassembly Procedure

1. Store the drum and stand in its case with the snares engaged when not in use.
2. Cases are for your instrument only, not for sticks, music, folders, or books.
3. Store the sticks in a stick bag with all of your mallets and accessories.



Supplies

- Snare Drum Sticks, concert model, pair
- General timpani mallets, pair
- Plastic bell mallets, pair
- Triangle beaters, pair
- Yarn mallets, pair
- Hard rubber mallets, pair
- Brushes, pair
- Pitch pipe (timpani tuning)
- Stick towel (black hand towel)
- Stick/Mallet Bag
- Drum key
- Metronome
- Pencil
- Wire Music Stand

Care and Maintenance

- Use a cloth to keep the entire drum clean and free of fingerprints, dust, and dirt.
- Keep all objects off of the drum head; it's not a table.
- The average life of a drum head is less than one year. Replace worn or damaged heads immediately.
- A small dab of lithium grease or lubrication should be applied to the tension rods when the heads are replaced.

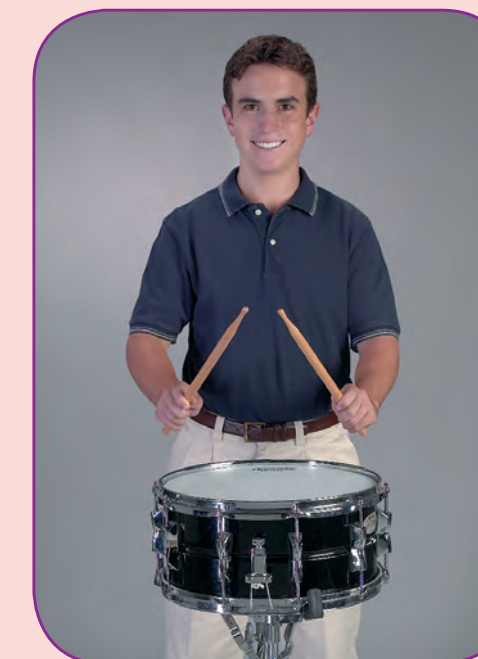
The Art of Playing Snare Drum



Rest Position



Ready Position



Play Position



Grip

- The stick should be placed diagonally across the palm of the hand. Grip the stick between the fleshy part of your thumb and the first joint of your index finger, approximately 1/3 the way up from the butt end of the stick to create the pivot point.
- Gently close the remaining fingers around the stick for support.
- Palms should face the floor with the thumbs on the side and all knuckles visible.

Tuning

- The batter head should be tensioned until a natural rebound feels comfortable with the stick. The snare head should be tuned slightly higher than the batter head.
- Tap softly on the batter head as you turn the control knob on the snare strainer to adjust the snare tension. The desired sound should be crisp and resonant.

- The shoulders are relaxed, the upper arms hang naturally, and the elbows are even with the sides and comfortably close to your body.
- Keep the forearms slightly below parallel to the floor.
- Stand away from the drum at a distance that puts the tips of the sticks slightly past the center of the head where they form an angle of approximately 75 degrees.
- The tips should be at rest in the ready position 1"-2" above the head.
- The proper playing area is slightly off center with the tips close together.

- From the ready position, use the wrist to raise the tip of the stick to the playing position about 12" above the drum head. Move the stick as far back as wrist movement will allow without moving the forearm.
- Move to the playing position when everyone takes a breath with the conductor's motion on the beat before you play. Develop a full stroke with just the motion of the wrist.
- Throw the stick toward the surface and allow the stick to immediately rebound back to the playing position.
- For successive strokes, the wrist should follow the natural rebound of the stick back to the playing position. The sticks may return to the ready position when there is a rest in the music.
- The full stroke will be affected by volume (dynamics) and speed (tempo).
- The softer that one plays, the closer to the surface one must start.
- Slower strokes naturally tend to require a greater range of motion than faster strokes

The Art of Playing Bongos

Setup Procedure

1. Although bongos are traditionally played with the hands in a seated position, they can also be attached to a stand and played with snare drum sticks.
2. The drums should be flat and parallel to the floor. Adjust the stand to bring the top head to approximately waist level or slightly below.
3. The high drum may be placed on either the player's right or left to best accommodate the music



Rest Position

- The basic matched grip is the same as that for snare drum.



Ready Position

- Use the same ready position as that for snare drum.



Play Position

- Use the same full stroke as that for snare drum.

Care and Maintenance

- Use a cloth to keep the entire drum clean and free of fingerprints, dust, and dirt.
- Keep all objects off of the drum head; it's not a table.
- The average life of a drum head is one year. Replace worn or damaged heads immediately.
- A small dab of lithium grease or lubrication should be applied to the tension rods when the heads are replaced.

Tuning

- The bongo heads should be tensioned until a natural rebound feels comfortable with the stick.
- The drums should be tuned about a fourth apart in pitch.
- The proper playing area is slightly off center on each drum.

The Art of Playing Percussion

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