

## How to Care for Your Snare Drum (I)

The snare drum has a metal shell and two plastic heads. The top drum head is called the batter head. The bottom head is called the snare head. The heads are held in place by hoops that are fastened together with tension screws. These screws can be adjusted to tune the drum heads. The snares are wires that are stretched across the bottom of the drum. The snares can be turned on or off using the snare strainer. There is a tension adjustment screw to adjust the tension of the snares.

### Cleaning the Drum Heads

Almost all school music programs use plastic heads on snare drums. Plastic heads are not affected by humidity and require very little care. To clean a plastic head, use a damp cloth and a mild soap. Dry the head with a towel. Commercial sprays are available to restore the original roughness to the drum head after it has been cleaned. Let the head dry about an hour before using it.

### Tuning

**Seat the Head:** Place the head on the drum. Mount the counterhoop with the same even tension on each screw rod. Press down the center of the head with the palm of your hand. This is to seat the head firmly against the counterhoop, eliminating any slack tension points.

**Tune Each Tension Point:** Start tuning at the first tension rod to the right of the strainer. Tap lightly with a stick about two inches from the edge of the head at the first tension screw. With your drum key, tighten the tension screw until you have a sound that you like. Continue clockwise around the entire head of the drum, trying to get the same sound at each spot. Do not use too much tension or you will choke the tone and reduce snare action. Tune both the batter head and the snare head.



### Handling and Regular Maintenance

Most damage to drums is caused by carelessness. Most broken heads are caused by an improper stroke, or by hitting the head with something other than a drum stick.

The snare drum is easy to care for. Keep the heads clean. Don't write on them. When tuning the drum, take care not to use too much tension. Use a case for your drum when traveling with it. Be sure your drum stand is solid and your drum is properly locked into position. Never put heavy or pointed objects on the head.

### Supplies Needed to Care for the Snare Drum

1. Stiff brush
2. Mild soap
3. Spray to restore roughness to drum heads

## How to Care for Your Snare Drum (II)

**Directions:** Match each clue in the left column with the correct answer in the right column. Write the letter of the answer in the blank.

- |   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| 1. _____ What drum heads are made of.   | A. write on them |
| 2. _____ The head of the drum that you strike.  | B. heavy objects |
| 3. _____ The head of the drum that the snares vibrate against.  | C. plastic       |
| 4. _____ Use this and soap and water to clean a plastic head.   | D. sound         |
| 5. _____ To do this press down the center of the drum with the palm of your hand.                       | E. damp cloth    |
| 6. _____ Most damage to drum heads is caused by this.   | F. spray         |
| 7. _____ Never do this to your drum heads.  | G. snare head    |
| 8. _____ Commercial _____ is available to restore the original roughness to the head after cleaning it. | H. carelessness  |
| 9. _____ Try for the same _____ at each tension point.  | I. case          |
| 10. _____ When tuning, tap at a point _____ from the edge of the head.                                  | J. right         |
| 11. _____ Start tuning at the first tension rod to the _____ of the strainer.                           | K. two inches    |
| 12. _____ Tune around the head of the drum in this direction.   | L. clockwise     |
| 13. _____ You should have this for your drum when you are traveling.                                    | M. seat          |
| 14. _____ Don't place these on your drum head.  | N. batter head   |
| 15. _____ Always remember that your snare drum is an _____ musical instrument and handle it with care.  | O. expensive     |