
DJEMBE DRUMS



I want to thank you for purchasing one of the drums I have rebuilt or have imported. You should get a lot of enjoyment for a long time from your new drum if you take proper care of it. I am going to give you a few do's and don'ts. Some of the people who have drums are familiar with what I am going to say while others are not. If you have any problems with your drum you can choose to send it back to me. If the problem is due to my workmanship, I will fix the drum for free and return it at my expense. If the drum is damaged due to neglect or natural causes I will fix the drum at a reasonable price and charge you for the shipping.

Do's and don'ts:

Your drum will have a long life if you follow these guide lines and use common sense.

1. Remove your rings. You should never drum wearing rings, this can put nicks and cuts in the head
2. Transport carefully. Do not let it roll around and get damaged (this only makes sense).
3. Protect from heat. If you are outside and near a fire, don't let the head get too close to the fire and don't let it stay near the fire for too long. Prolonged heating of the head by a fire can shorten the life of the head
4. Never leave the drum in a hot car. This can seriously damage the head.
5. When outside, always keep the head covered when not in use. This will keep it dry and tighter. It only takes a towel or extra shirt to accomplish this.
6. Protect from rain and water. Do not leave it out in the rain, this will obviously soften the head, and you could also damage the shell.
7. Do not use it as a table, setting drinks on it can cause damage to the head.
8. The drums are made primarily for use with your hands. Do not use any sharp object to beat on the drum. The use of some types of soft drum sticks are allowable.

Maintenance and Care

Your drum does not require a lot of maintenance. Just being careful goes a long way. There are some things you can do to extend the life of your drum.

Some people do apply a conditioner to the drum head. I have used some in the past but no longer use any. You can apply a touch of shea butter directly on the head. You can also use any kind of hand conditioner on your hands and as you play the drum the conditioner will be transferred to the head.

Because the head is a real skin, it is apt to change with dampness. I have found that a fresh head needs occasional tightening in the first few months. There is extra rope around the barrel for making more diamonds when you do need to tighten the head. This pattern of diamonds is call Mali Weave. Follow the diagram at the bottom of the page. If you ever get more than three rows of triangles it might be time to undo all triangles and get the ropes back to just the verticals. Once back to the verticals only, you can pull each vertical,

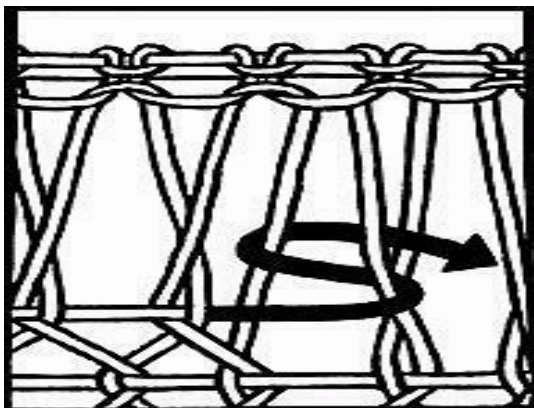
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Maintenance and Care (Continued)

starting at the loop and knot where the verticals are tied off. The important part when pulling the verticals is to pull in the direction of the slack . This means after you have gone completely around the drum, the extra rope that you have accumulated will end up making the extra rope longer.

The shell itself has been coated with multiple coats of boiled linseed oil. So far, I have found that the shells do not need anything for quite some time. If you get some scratches you can lightly sand with 120 grit paper and recoat with boiled linseed oil. I mix two parts odorless paint thinner with one part boiled linseed oil.



I have never figured out the fascination I have had with drums and drumming. Back in the early 80's I built my first drum. It was crude, but it worked. I went on to build about 6 more slat drums, referred by some as Appalachian Slat Drums. I sold three and gave the others as presents. I saw my first Djembe in 1992 and was immediately in love. They produce a great sound and I knew I wanted one. I was unable to afford one. Being handy with my hands after being a carpenter for 20 years, I attempted to build a djembe out of plywood. Again I came up with a crude drum, but it worked. About a year after building my own djembe I happened across an importer of African artifacts including djembes. After contacting him and purchasing a couple of drums from him, I embarked on this incredible journey of rebuilding drums. I am now importing finished Djembes from The Ivory Coast in addition to the drums I rebuild. I have learned quite a lot and I am still in the process of learning. This is no longer a hobby and is now a full time business. I want to continue to let people have good drums at a reasonable price. I may be contacted at the following number, e-mail or you may visit my site on the internet.



Djembe Drums



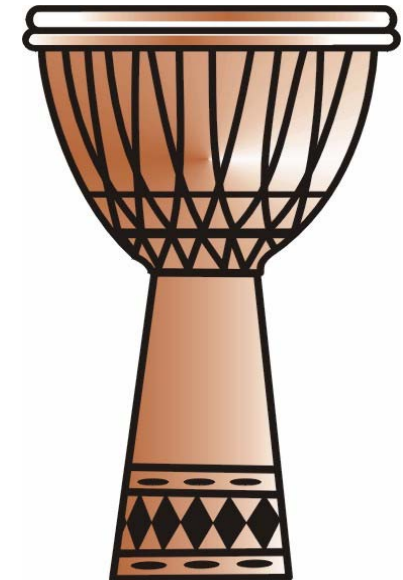
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DJEMBE DRUMS & SKINS



Drums & Skins Imported
From Africa

Drum Maintenance & Care

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