



Thank You for Purchasing the Black Swamp® Multisonic Snare Drum.

The Multisonic Snare System is the most advanced concert/orchestral snare system in the world. Instantly and effortlessly, you can completely change the timbre and response of your drum.

In order to fully take advantage of the multiple sonorities of the drum, it is helpful to understand the concepts behind the design of the Multisonic Snare System.

- *Concept 1:* A snare drum must have the correct amount of snare cable or wire on the snare head in order for the drum to correctly sound. It must not have too little, resulting in a thin sound, or too much, which will hinder the drum's response.
- *Concept 2:* The best way to actually change the timbre and response of a drum is to change the combination of snare types on the snare head while still retaining the proper amount of snare cable or wire. Simply starting with the proper amount of snare strands and only being able to subtract snare strands is not a solution. You must be able to take away *and* add snare units.
- *Concept 3:* The best concert drums have snare units that wrap-around the bearing edge and make use of the longest part of the snare head (the space between the snare beds). Once the snares spread beyond this area, snare response is lost and the drum can be choked.

The Multisonic Snare System integrates all these concepts into a precisely engineered strainer that is simple to use, yet is extraordinarily versatile. For optimum performance, please read the following guidelines.

- Operating the strainer is simple. To choose a combination, turn off the strainer and push in the buttons on the top of the slider that you wish to activate. Make sure you pull the buttons all the way out of the sliders you wish to de-activate. Next, turn the strainer on. Make sure the deactivated sliders are all the way down by pushing them to the lowest point when the strainer is on. This will ensure that the deactivated snares will not make extraneous noise. Again, make sure the buttons are pulled out fully to allow the sliders to freely move.
- There are many different snare combinations possible. This will allow you to fine tune your sound according to your playing style, venue, drum size, and tuning. In fact there are 10 different combinations of three snares and 5 different combinations of 4 snares. **The drum was designed to primarily use combinations of three snares**, but there may be an occasion when a more robust sound is appropriate. We suggest that you experiment with different combinations and choose a few different combinations that you think will work well in your playing situations.
- If the batter head has marks, it is because all drums are tuned, played, and tested before they are shipped. Please note that the type of heads on a drum affect its sound considerably. We have chosen Evans G1 coated heads because we feel that they provide the best tone and response in all dynamic ranges. The following heads are also recommended: Evans Orchestral (thinner than G1), Remo FD Fiberskyn (warmer, drier), Remo coated Diplomat (slightly thinner than Evans G1). However, we feel that a thin, white calfskin head produces the best sound for concert playing.
- Before shipping, we tune the heads tighter than normal to help seat the head to the bearing edge, although they may be loose upon arrival. This is because new heads stretch during the first few days after assembly and break-in over the course of a few months, so continue to fine tune the heads until they are settled. The snare side (bottom) head will probably need to be tightened, as it will stretch more than the batter side (top) for the first few weeks after it is mounted. If the snare head is too loose **or** too tight, you will lose snare response and sensitivity.
- Always keep cable snares turned on when you are not using your drum. This helps the cable to form to the snare bed, increasing snare sensitivity and response over time. This also helps to prevent snagging or damage to the cable or wire.
- How to adjust snare tension for optimum snare response:
 1. Adjust the tension so the snares respond in the appropriate dynamic range.
 - Gold cable - *ff* to *mf*
 - Blue cable - *f* to *mf* / *mp*
 - Stainless uncoated - *mp* to *pp*
 - Wire unit - *pp* to *ppp* (for the wire unit, there is a very small adjustment range for best response)
 2. Over-tightening the largest cable type may diminish response in the *mf* and lower dynamic ranges. Slightly loosening that system will improve sensitivity without negatively affecting the louder dynamic range.
- To clean the gloss polyester finishes, use only a very soft, lint-free cloth. Do not use any cleaner that is stronger than a mild window cleaner. Spray the cloth with window cleaner, then gently clean the drum. For the wood finishes, you may want to apply some liquid caranuba wax (available at auto supply stores) to improve gloss. The wax will also repel dirt and smudge marks. Brass-plated hardware is more susceptible to damage than chrome, so extra care should be given handling and storing those drums.
- Included with your new snare drum is a Black Swamp Percussion drum dampener, model # **BSDD**. It is made from genuine suede leather and is curved to match the profile of your counterhoop. Snug it right up to the hoop for minimal dampening, or place further toward the center for more sound control. The textured surface of the suede keeps the dampener from creeping. You can instantly take the dampener on or off, or make a slight adjustment without fuss or muss. Dampeners placed on the batter head to reduce ring should always be placed directly opposite of the playing area, typically near your belt buckle.

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