

THE TOM-TOMS

Both heads of the drumset toms are batter heads, and are simply referred to as the top and bottom heads. As with the bass drum, both heads of a single drum do not have to be the same type, and head selection will again be determined by the musical situation and the individual player's taste.

Changing the Drumhead

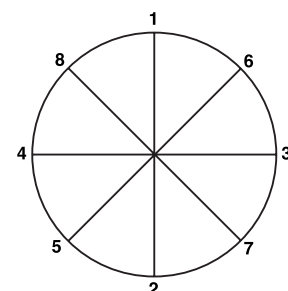
1. Select the proper replacement head.
2. Remove the tension rods, counterhoop and drumhead from your tom-tom.
3. Wipe the bearing edge of the shell clean. Wood and pearl finishes may be cleaned with a damp cloth and mild soap, and furniture polish may also be applied to wood finishes, if desired. Metal shells and hoops may be cleaned with a damp cloth and/or metal polish.
4. Before putting the new head in place, a thin coat of paraffin wax may be applied around the bearing edge of the drum shell (this is optional).
5. Set the new drumhead on the drum shell and position it so the logo on the drumhead lines up with either the air hole or the drum shell logo (photo A).
6. Place the counterhoop over the drumhead and carefully replace the tension rods after lubricating them with Vaseline or light machine oil. Using your fingers, screw each tension rod in place and tighten them using only slight finger pressure (photo B).

Before tuning, it will be helpful to number each tension rod using either the logo or air hole as a point of reference for tension rod number 1 (photo C).



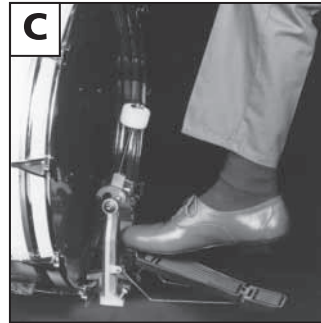
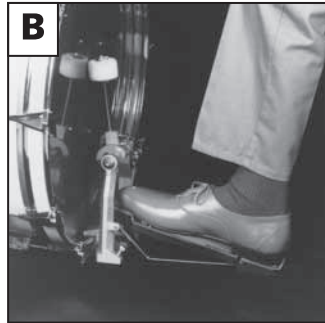
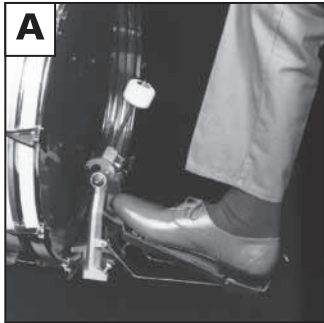
Tuning the Tom-Toms (Cross-Tension System)

1. Tune the head by using the cross-tension system of tuning as described for the snare drum on page 8.
2. It is important that the tension be equalized around the entire circumference of the tom-tom to obtain the best tone. Again, this is accomplished in much the same manner as for the snare drum.



5. Two fundamental techniques for playing the bass drum are *heel up* and *heel down*.

- When using the **heel down** technique, the entire foot contacts the pedal. The player rocks the foot with an ankle motion, causing the beater to strike the head. The foot then returns immediately to the “up” position, without leaving the pedal as shown in photos A and B.
- When using the **heel up** technique (often used for louder, more articulate strokes), the heel is raised one to two inches off the pedal surface, while the ball of the foot operates the pedal. The foot returns immediately to the “up” position as shown in photos C and D. For greater volume, the leg may be used in conjunction with the ankle.



The Mounted (Rack) Tom-Toms

One or more mounted toms may be used, ranging in size from 6 to 18 inches in diameter, 12 or 13 inches being the most common.

“Power” drum sizes are also available, which extend the depth of the shell to create a lower pitch and darker sound than that of the traditional tom-tom. These particular drums may increase the overall volume and height of the drumset because of the extended length of the tom-toms mounted on the bass drum.

The components of the tom-tom are the shell (made of either wood or fiberglass), two counterhoops (rims), lugs and tension rods (the number of which depends on the size of the drum), one or two heads, and a mount attached to the side of the drum to secure it to the top of the bass drum.



1. The tom-toms should be tuned before attaching them to the bass drum, as it will become more difficult to do so once they've been put in place. (See page 14 for a complete explanation.)
2. Attach the tom-toms to the mount on top of the bass drum, making sure they don't touch or rub against the bass drum, snare drum or floor tom. Tilt the drums slightly toward you in such a way that you clear the rims while striking the heads comfortably with the side of the stick tip (see photo). Avoiding a severe drumstick angle will not only produce the best tone, but will also reduce the likelihood of damaging the drumhead. If using more than one mounted tom, large gaps in height between the batter heads of the drums should be avoided, as well as large distances between each drum.