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## Maintenance instructions for Framed Drums

The following instructions will help you enjoy our instruments for a long time

Musical instruments made of wood

Wood is a living material, grown in ages, thoroughly dried, carefully processed. Musical instruments made of wood should not permanently be exposed to open sunlight. They can also be damaged due to dry air caused for instance by central heating. Air humidifiers can help keeping the indoor climate at a reasonable level. Do not leave wooden instruments in the car during summertime since the temperature might reach up to 70° C / 160° F. A bag or a case keeps the instrument safe from damaging and serves – up to a certain degree – as an insulation device.

### Frame Drums

#### Tuning your Frame Drum

Provided it is stretched evenly, the drum can then be tuned to a fixed tone pitch. Note: Tuning screws should not be turned more than half a turn (better: quarter turn) at a time – either tuning up or down. Turn one tuning screw after another going around the circle. (If you follow this you don't need to turn the tuning screws opposite to each other as you might do when tuning a snare drum.) In order to tune the drum effortlessly begin with the tuning screw on the right hand side of the holding grip and then work your way round to the starting point.

#### Fine-tuning your Frame Drum

Frame Drums sound best when tuned evenly. (This is only feasible with a tuning screw mechanism.) To fine-tune your Frame Drum follow these steps: Strike the drum with a sharp knock just above the tuning screw and listen to the overtones. Compare this sound to that above the next tuning screw. Try to find the same tuning. Carry on with each tuning screw in order to make them all sound equal (minor variations in tone are due to the natural skin and should not negatively affect the sound of the drum as a whole). It needs some practice telling the overtones from the keynote. Take some time and tune the drum in quietness. Your Frame Drum will sound better with more reverberation and sustain if tuned accurately.

#### Taking care of your Frame Drum

If the drum produces a buzzing sound it is usually due to a tiny hair or a fiber on the skin. Our Frame Drums are polished with sandpaper on the inside, however small hairs can later stand up again producing the buzzing effect. In this case sand your Frame Drum again lightly from the inside with a 220 or 240 grade sandpaper. Also sand the skin at the edges near the frame. Make sure that the drum is on an even, clean surface (any granule of dust would cause a hole in the drum skin if sanded over). Do not sand the upper side of your drum.

#### Greasing the drum skin

Contrary to popular belief you should not grease or oil the skin of your drum, especially not without first preparing it. Most oils are acidic and are bound to weaken the skin structure. Non-acidic oils or grease like bag balm or skin creme are hard to dose, overdosing making the drum skin sound dull and slow. If you really need to oil the skin, damp it evenly on both sides. This way the oil can permeate all skin layers. Greasing the dry skin would only allow the grease to reach the top layer. This leads to strains in the skin structure and causes premature fatigue.



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### Storing your Frame Drum

You need not to reduce the skin tension after playing unless the drum was extremely high pitched. Be careful not to release the tension too much, since the skin might adapt to low tension in a way that makes it impossible to tune it lower still. The drum is stored best at a moderate tension in dry conditions.

Frame Drums should not permanently be exposed to open sunlight.

### Accessories

Our high-quality bags keep the frame drum safe from damaging and serves - up to a certain degree - as an insulation device. It's useful for transportation of the drum as well as for storing it.

Please note also our professionell tuning wrench, that is - because of the ball-shaped head of the wrench - an easy going tool for an effortless, facile and more precise tuning.

