

# HOW TO replace your timpani head

Replacing the head on your timpani is important to maintaining the instrument's life and sound. When it head starts to sound dry or dead, or when the pitch becomes "false" (meaning that it is impossible to fine-tune the head and obtain a clear pitch), it is time to change it. On the reverse of this sheet, you will find instructions on how to remove the old head, clean and prepare the timpani, and then mount a new head.



## TIMPANI TUNING RANGE

The practical range of a timpani is a perfect 5th. Most drums with a good head will easily play from a half step below their normal range to a step above it.

32" range: D - A	30" range: E - B	29" range: F - C	28" range: F - C
26" range: Bb - F	25" range: Bb - F	23" range: Eb - Bb	20" range: F - C



cont. on back

## STEP ONE: PREPARATION



remove hoop

- 1) Place a block of wood under the toe of the pedal to prevent it from snapping forward when the old head is removed.



clean bowl

- 2) Remove the old head and completely clean the entire interior bowl and support mechanism.



lubricate edge

- 3) Line the counterhoop with adhesive felt, or moleskin, to eliminate noises (buzzing) that occur from contact between the counterhoop and the head.



replace head

- 4) Lubricate the bearing edge by spraying a thin, even layer of Teflon spray along the entire bearing edge.

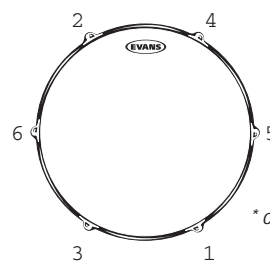
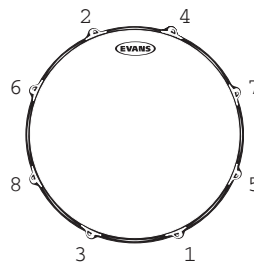
## STEP TWO: MOUNTING THE HEAD

- 1) Place the new head on the bowl and replace the counterhoop, checking to ensure the space between the hoop and the edge of the bowl are equal around the entire perimeter of the drum.

- 2) Replace the tension rods and finger-tighten them until they just make contact with the hoop.

- 3) Following the "cross-lug sequence" (pictured below), \* begin to apply tension with the timpani key by turning each rod 1 (one) complete revolution. After each rod receives one full revolution, repeat this procedure.

- 4) Next, using the same sequence but in smaller increments (1/2 turns), tension the head until it reaches the lowest note in the playing range and remove the block of wood from beneath the pedal.



\* cross-lug tuning sequence



For additional information on timpani head sizing, clearing, tuning, lessons and tips, visit:

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Tip Sheet • Volume 2