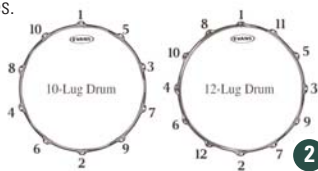


# Concert Bass Drum

1. Mount the new head and finger-tighten all lugs to equal tension.
2. Use the appropriate sequential tuning method and begin with 1/2 key-turns on each lug until the drum begins to resonate.
3. Seat the head by applying open palm hand pressure to head center and pressing with firm, short bursts. After doing so, you may need to clear the head of overtones.
4. Continue raising pitch in 1/2 turn increments until the drum is within its accepted range.
5. Recommended batter (playing) head pitch: C–E
6. Recommended resonant side head pitch:
  - 1/2 step higher than Batter Head. Achieves a full round sound and maximizes sustain and articulation.
  - Same pitch as Batter Head. Achieves a moderately full sound and articulation.
7. Using a reference pitch from a chromatic tuner, fine tune the drum by tapping in front of each lug to ensure the head is clear of excess overtones.



## High Performance Quick Tips:

**Dot or no Dot** – Some heads offer a “power dot” in the center of the bass drum head. Although the dot does protect the head, it is actually designed to slow the vibrations of the drumhead, which will lower the pitch of the drum, and remove the “papery” sound inherent in large drums.



**Staccato Bass Drum** – Use a set of large black paper clamps to attach a small hand towel to the top portion of the bass drum rim to utilize for staccato passages on the bass drum. The towel can then be flipped on or off the head as desired.



# CHECK OUT



**EvansDrumHeads.com**  
Check out the new Evans Marching webpage to see the latest innovations and watch videos of your favorite artists.



**PureSoundPercussion.com**  
Check out the new PureSound website and find the snare wire option that best suits your playing style and preferred sound.



**HQPercussion.com**  
Check out the new HQ website to see the latest practice innovations and get tips from your favorite pros.



# Concert Percussion

## Survival Guide

by Steve Hearn

Colorado Symphony Orchestra



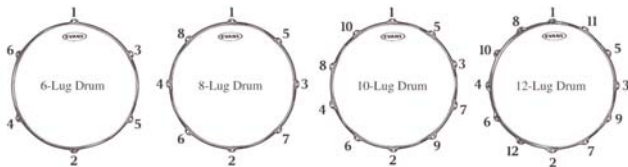
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www.daddario.com



# General Tuning Tips



1. Clean off bearing edges and counter hoops before installation. Remove any lint or debris from inside the shell. Use a damp cloth for general dusting and cleaning.
2. Listen to the head through all steps of the tuning process. Strive for a clear, focused sound by keeping all lugs in tune at all times.
3. Develop your "key technique" by monitoring the amount you turn each lug and how it affects pitch.
4. Always use the Opposite Lug tuning Sequence (OLS) by referring to the diagram that is relative to the number of lugs on your drum.



## High Performance Quick Tips:

**Well-Oiled Machine** – Over time it may be necessary to lubricate the inside of the lugs of your drum to ensure smooth tuning. Apply a very small amount of White Lithium Grease (or similar lubricant) to lugs. Only a tiny bit of lubricant is necessary.

**Out of Site, Out of Mind** – Typically percussionists forget to change out snare wires and bottom heads. Changing resonant heads and snare wires regularly can have a dramatic effect on the sound of your drum. Resonant heads should be changed every 3rd or 4th time you change your batter heads.

Snare wires should be changed at least once a year or when the tension of the individual strands is no longer equal.

# Concert Snare Drum

1. Mount the new head and finger-tighten all lugs to equal tension.
2. Use the appropriate sequential tuning method and begin with ½ key-turns on each lug until the drum begins to resonate. Tap in front of each lug to ensure that each lug produces an identical clear tone.
3. Seat (stretch) head by applying short burst of pressure to the center of the head. After doing so, you may need to clear the head of overtones.
4. Recommended batter head pitch:
  - 13x4 = B-D#
  - 14x4 = A-C
  - 14x5 = G#-B
  - 14x6.5 = G-A#
  - 14x8 = F#-B
  - 14x12 = E-G
  - 16x16 = A#-C#
5. Recommended snare side head pitch is typically a perfect 4th or 5th higher than the top head.
6. Fine tune each head by lightly tapping the head near each lug.
7. Turn on snare strainer and slowly tighten snares while striking drum until a crisp snare response is achieved.

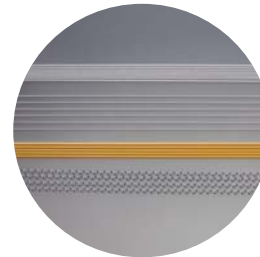


## High Performance Quick Tips:

**Snares Matter** – The type of snares you chose for your drum has a great deal of effect on its overall sound.

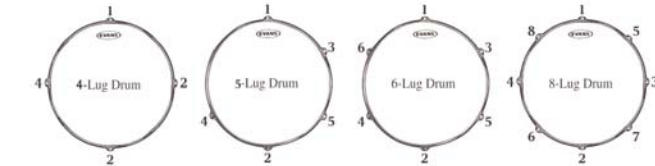
- UNCOATED STAINLESS CABLE – brighter, full, clear, yet warm timbre.
- LIGHT THIN STRAIGHT CABLE – dark, wet, responsive timbre.
- COATED CABLE – dark, full, warm traditional timbre.
- WIRE SNARES – brighter, dryer, responsive timbre.

**Focus your sound** – Select a head with an integrated overtone control ring. These rings can also be purchased as additions to existing drumheads.



# Concert Tom

1. Mount the new head and finger-tighten all lugs to equal tension.
2. Use the appropriate sequential tuning method and begin with ½ key-turns on each lug until the drum begins to resonate. Tap in front of each lug to ensure that each lug produces an identical clear tone.
3. Tap in front of each lug to ensure that each lug produces an identical clear tone.



4. Seat the head by applying short burst of pressure to the center of the head. After doing so, you may need to clear the head of overtones.
5. Continue raising pitch in 1/2 turn increments until the drum is within its accepted range.
6. Common tuning options for double-headed drums:
  - Same pitch as the batter head achieves a full round sound and maximizes sustain.
  - Slightly lower bottom head achieves a small pitch drop (dip) after initial attack.
7. Fine tune the pitch by lightly tapping the head near each lug.



## High Performance Quick Tips:

**Two heads or not two heads** – Much like for snare wires, the choice of single or double headed toms expand a player's sonic options.

- Double-Headed Toms offer a full, open, rich tone resulting in a moderate attack with increased sustain.
- Single-Headed Toms offer a focused, direct tone resulting in a more defined attack with a controlled sustain.

## Head Selection –

- Single ply heads will offer increased resonance while double ply heads offer a slightly more pronounced attack.
- Thinner heads will inherently be more sensitive than thicker heads.
- Coated heads will focus the fundamental pitch of your drums, creating a warmer, darker, sound.
- Uncoated heads allow for maximum resonance and a brighter sound due to an increased presence of overtones.