

FIVE-STAR TECH TIPS

DRUMHEAD SELECTION

The invention of the synthetic drumhead nearly 50 years ago was one big change for drummers. Up until that time, virtually all drumheads had been made from animal skins. The synthetic head not only allowed a much higher quantity and quality of heads to be made, it enabled the development of heads with a more controlled yet wider range of tonal and performance options.

In basic terms, most of today's drumheads feature a plastic film that's mounted in a metal hoop. While the material and mounting method may vary, all heads can be classified by size, weight and type. These are the factors you should use to decide which heads are right for the way you play.

Size (represented in inches) generally determines which size and type of drum the head is designed to go on, for example:

6-18"	10-15"	18-24"+
tom-toms	snare drums	bass drums

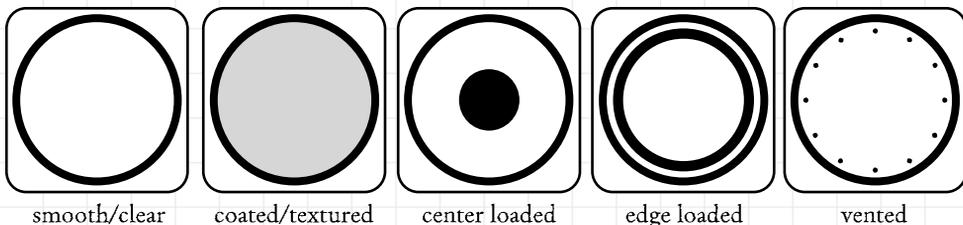
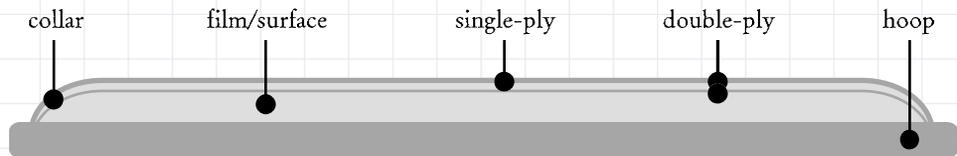
Drumheads are also available for concert, marching and world percussion instruments.

Weight refers to the thickness of the head. Heads can be thin, medium or heavy. Thin and medium weight heads are brighter, more sensitive and well-suited for light to general playing applications such as jazz, latin and pop. Thicker heads are deeper and more durable and recommended for heavier rock and world music playing. To increase the thickness of the head, sometimes a heavier gauge material is used and sometimes two plies of medium gauge film do the job.

Modern drumhead manufacturers also offer a variety of head types— from clear, smooth and coated to laminated, loaded, etched and vented. Each style of film and surface treatment modifies the head to create a distinctive quality of sound.

Use the chart below to find the type of heads that best fit your drumming situation. And, don't forget to change your top and bottom heads on a regular basis. It's the way the pro's keep their kits sounding their best... and it'll do the same for yours.

type	style	tone	attack	decay	sensitivity
smooth/clear	general	bright	medium	long	high
coated	general	mid	dry	medium	high
textured	jazz/world	dark	dry	medium	low
center loaded	rock	mid	enhanced	medium	low
edge loaded	general	mid	enhanced	medium	medium
vented	general	mid	dry	short	medium



To learn more about drumheads, including the heads your favorite drummers play, ask your dealer or log on to the drumhead companies' websites listed throughout this guide.