

FIVE-STAR TECH TIPS

DRUM TUNING

Although tuning a drumset by properly tensioning the heads is not quite the same as tuning instruments like guitars, trumpets, saxophones or violins to specific pitches, correct tuning is essential for achieving the best sound from your drums and best performance from your heads. Here are some general rules the pro's use for drum tuning:

1) Tune your drums by using a combination of the “criss-cross” technique for basic tuning and the “clockwise” method for fine tuning. A drum’s “criss-cross” pattern is based on the number of tension lugs it has. Use the recommended tuning patterns shown in the illustrations below as a guide.

2) “Seat” new heads by tightening them above the desired pitch before fine-tuning. This stretches and helps position them properly on the drum’s bearing edge.

3) Tune up. Loosen the head slightly below the desired tension and push down on it to relax it before tightening the head to achieve the final desired tension and pitch.

4) Tune in even increments. This will stretch the head evenly and allow it to vibrate at its maximum efficiency—producing the fullest and most dynamic tone.

5) Tune to the drum’s “sweet spot”. This is the point where each drum “sings”, feels good and is the most resonant.

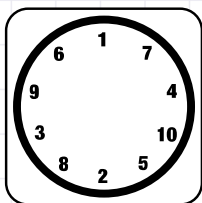
When changing heads, begin by placing the drumhead on the drumshell and place the counterhoop over the head. Align the holes in the hoop with the lugs on the drum, insert a tension rod through each hole and thread them into the lug receiver until they are “finger tight”.

For basic tuning on any type of drum, start with the tension rod at position “1” and give the key two full turns clockwise. Repeat at each position, following the appropriate “criss-cross” lug pattern shown below. Repeat this step as necessary until the drum rings when struck.

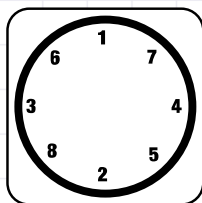
With the head properly seated and evenly tensioned, return to position 1 and continue tightening each tension rod in smaller increments. Tap the drum at each tension point with your stick or finger about one inch in front of the tension rod and adjust the tension so that each tension point sounds exactly the same as the points next to and across from it.

For fine tuning, continue tightening the head by going around the drum clockwise from tension rod to tension rod and maintaining the same pitch at each position. Tune like a pro using the chart below to adjust the overall tuning and muffling of each drum to create the desired sound and feel.

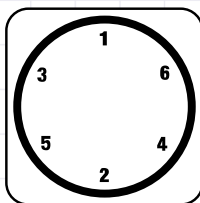
factor	snare drums	tom-toms	bass drums
pitch/tone	high/crisp	mid-low/open	low/punchy
top head tension	tight	medium	loose
bottom head tension	tighter	looser	even
muffling amount	moderate	minimum	maximum
muffling method	tape, pads, rings	tape, pads, rings	pillows, rings, vents



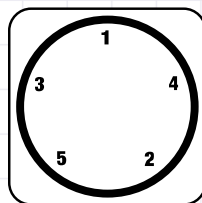
10-lug pattern



8-lug pattern



6-lug pattern



5-lug pattern

To learn more about drum tuning, including how your favorite drummers tune, ask your dealer or log on to the drum-related websites listed throughout this guide.