

## SELECTING MARCHING PERCUSSION HEADS

### SNARE HEADS



#### Hybrid Series

By utilizing two unique high-tensile fibers for flexibility and durability, the Hybrid marching snare batter achieves a much softer feel, greater sensitivity, and a broader dynamic range while enhancing projection and durability.



#### System Blue

The Evans System Blue snare head features a softer feel yet maintains the tonal clarity and projection necessary for a championship-winning drum corps. Snare lines will benefit from reduced fatigue during extended rehearsals when using these drumheads.



#### MX5 Snare Side

The MX5 provides maximum snare response and superior durability. A thin overtone control ring reinforces the edge durability and eliminates unwanted overtones, further enhancing articulation.

### TENOR HEADS



#### System Blue Tenor Heads

Developed in conjunction with the World Champion Blue Devils, the System Blue head utilizes Sound Shaping Technology (SST™) and features a unique material combination that results in enhanced attack, tonal clarity, and projection, with increased durability and tuning stability.

### BASS HEADS



#### MX1/ MX2 Marching Bass Heads

These marching heads are equipped with a unique tone damping system that enhances articulation and focuses low-end. A series of felt damping arcs can be manipulated for indoor or outdoor marching.

### MARCHING ACCESSORIES



#### Control Screen

Designed for marching snare drums, the Evans Control Screen offers a simple and effective way to reduce overall volume without sacrificing tone, articulation, or feel. Fitting neatly underneath the drum head, the Evans Control Screen is simple to install and remove as needed. Available in 13" and 14" sizes.

## FOR MORE INFO CHECK OUT OUR SITES

**EVANS**  
DRUMHEADS

[evansdrumheads.com](http://evansdrumheads.com)

Visit the Evans website to find the drumhead and accessory options that are right for you.

**PROMARK**  
BY D'ADDARIO

[promark.com](http://promark.com)

Visit the Pro-Mark website to get up-to-the-minute info on the latest products and artist features.

**PURESOUND**  
BY D'ADDARIO

[puresoundpercussion.com](http://puresoundpercussion.com)

Check out the Puresound website and find the snare wire option that best suits your playing style and preferred sound.

**D'Addario**

[daddario.com](http://daddario.com)

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[daddario.com](http://daddario.com)

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## MARCHING PERCUSSION

# SURVIVAL GUIDE

by Jim Bailey



**D'Addario**

## TUNING THE SNARE

1) Mount the top head and finger-tighten all lugs to equal tension.

2) Using the appropriate sequential tuning method, continue tuning until the drum is within general marching snare tuning range.

3) Select a pitch for your top and bottom heads. I suggest using an "A" for the batter head and a "D" for the snare-side head. Tune your top head up to pitch using a chromatic tuner.

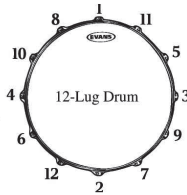
4) Using the same techniques listed above in steps 1-3, tune the bottom head.

5) Disengage the snare strainer and turn the drum upside down as illustrated. Place a pen between the snares and the drumhead so the snares can resonate freely.

6) Using a small screwdriver, tune the individual snares up until they resonate and produce the same pitch.

7) Remove the pen. Engage the snare strainer, turn the drum over, and rest on a stand.

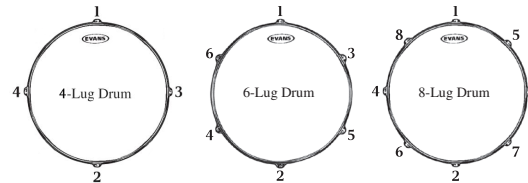
8) Use the snare tension knob on the side of your drum to adjust the snare response until you reach your desired sound.



## TUNING THE TENORS

1) Mount all heads and finger-tighten all lugs to equal tension.

2) Starting with the largest drum, use the appropriate sequential tuning method and use 1/2 turns on each lug, until the drum is within its general tuning range. As you bring the head up to range, use a stick to tap in front of each lug to ensure that each lug produces an identical clear tone. Select a specific pitch and tune using a chromatic tuner.



3) When selecting specific pitches, refer to the chart below as a guideline.

- 6" F#
- 8" C#
- 10" A
- 12" F#
- 13" D
- 14" B<sup>b</sup>

4) Repeat steps 1-3 with the rest of your drums, tuning all drums in reverse order of size. Use a chromatic tuner to ensure the correct interval.



## TUNING THE BASS DRUMS

1) Rest the drum on a table so you can access both heads at the same time.

2) Before mounting heads, be sure to clean rim and bearing edge of any debris.

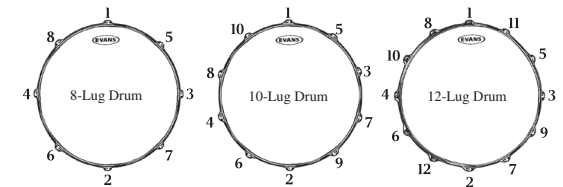
3) Mount both heads and finger-tighten lugs to equal tension.

4) Starting with the largest drum, use the sequential tuning method to bring each head within its tuning range. Use a mallet to tap in front of each lug to ensure that all lugs produce an identical clear tone.

5) Working between the two drum heads bring both heads up to the desired pitch.

6) Recheck pitch by tapping in front of each lug to ensure the head is clear of overtones and in the center to ensure both heads are at the same pitch.

7) Once you have the largest drum tuned, follow steps 2-6 for the remaining drums. Pitch intervals between drums depend on the size of the drums used. Experiment and select a tuning scheme that provides the best balance of articulation and resonance.



### Tuning Tip:

Beware of over-tightened snare drums. Aside from damage to the player's hands and the instrument, marching snares that are tuned too high do not have a lot of projection and don't blend well with other instruments.

### Tuning Tip:

It is important that the drums share a pleasing intervallic relationship with each other to enable the section to resonate together. Although the pitch of the drums will sound different, the tone should be consistent. Try to avoid a choked sound on top drums and an overly resonant lower drum.