



CDS

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The CDS Catalog

October 2025

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CONTENTS

4

[Premier HTS800 Snare Drums, Professional Series Bass and Tenor](#)

6

[Andante Reactor Snare Drums, Andante Pro Series Bass and Tenor](#)

8

[Premier Traditional Series Bass and Tenor](#)

9

[CDS Protecthor Hard Cases](#)

10

[Soft Cases](#)

12

[Snare Drum Heads](#)

14

[Snare Drum Wires](#)

15

[Bass & Tenor Heads](#)

16

[Drum Major Maces](#)

17

[Practice Pads](#)

18

[Snare Drum Sticks](#)

20

[Tenor Drum Mallets](#)

21

[Bass Drum Mallets](#)

22

[Tuning Accessories](#)

24

[Exercises & Scores](#)

26

[Slings & Stands](#)

28

[Drum Carriers](#)

30

[Carrier Parts](#)

31

[Books](#)

33

[The Full Score & Other Musings by Doug Stronach](#)

34

[Stuff We Forgot To Mention](#)

35

[Custom Services](#)

HOW TO ORDER

The quickest way to order is by email either directly or by using the contact page on our website [here](#). We process all quotes, invoices and payments online. We can still accept cheques on US or Canadian bank accounts if you don't mind waiting on them to be processed.

Please note that most items will need to be shipped but local pickup is available by appointment (Southwestern Ontario). Please email for more details.

PRODUCT NAME	QTY.	NOTES



HTS800

The Premier HTS800 Series Snare Drums are Premier's flagship model snare drum for the pipe band world. The original HTS series started way back in 1987 with the HTS200 model and has been continuously developed throughout the years to the current HTS800 version.

The drum features a floating cage design, birch wood shell and polished or chrome hardware. As well as standard colours, Premier have a range of custom finishes that can be viewed on request.

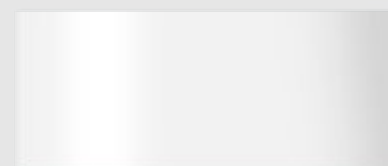


Professional Series Tenor Drums

The Premier Pro Series are some of the lightest and best sounding tenor drums on the market. They have a 7-ply birch shell with unique free-floating turnbuckle system invented by Ontario's own Craig 'Hos' Colquhoun.

A variety of sizes are available to create the different pitches needed for modern pipe band ensemble playing:

14x12"	15x12"	16x12"
16x14"	18x14"	20x14"



Colours

Premier Drums come in a variety of standard lacquers (black, red, blue and white) as well as a series of custom special lacquers and custom sparkle lacquers.

Black is in stock most of the time while colours will typically need to be ordered.

If you're building your set of drums over time, it's best to choose black in either polished or chrome hardware. You can add to the set as you see fit and colour matching is never an issue. Colours are typically ordered as one whole set to ensure the colour matching between drums is consistent. Please [email](#) for current timelines, custom colour choices and availability.

Professional Series Bass Drums

Premier Professional Series Bass Drums come in a 4mm 2-ply birch shell with 5mm reinforced bearing edge for stability.

The Current range of sizes are:

26x12"

28x14"

28x16"

28x18"





NG REACTOR

The Next Generation Andante Reactor Snare Drum features a free floating birch shell and 20 tension bolt top hoop for maximum tuning stability.

The drum is well-known for its ease of tuning and stable bright sound.

The drum comes in two sizes:

14x12"

14x7"



14x7" Reactor in custom pink sparkle finish.

Andante Pro Series Tenor Drums

Andante Pro Series Tenor Drums come in a 4-ply birch shell with reinforced bearing edges and 8mm birch hoops.

A variety of sizes are available:

14x12"	15x12"	16x12"
16x14"	18x12"	18x14"
20x14"		



Solid Black



Solid White



Dark Green WG



Light Green WG



Dark Blue WG



Light Blue WG



Red WG



Black WG

***WG = Woodgrain

Colours

Andante offer a variety of standard colours as pictured left. Standard metalwork choices include white, black and silver powder coat.

They also offer a vast selection of custom shell colours, fades, sparkles and matte finishes as well as custom hardware choices.

Please [email](#) for current manufacturing timelines, custom colour choices and availability.

Andante Pro Series Bass Drums

Andante Pro Series Bass Drums come in a 4-ply birch shell with reinforced bearing edges and 10mm birch hoops.

Lightweight tube lugs attach to the shell with die cast claws attaching to the wood hoops.

The Current range of sizes are:

24x12"	24x14"
26x14"	28x12"
28x14"	28x16"





Traditional Series Bass & Tenor Drums

The Premier Traditional Series Bass and Tenor drums offer a classic look and feel. While slightly heavier than the Professional Series, they still offer great sound and durability at a reduced price point.



CDS Hard Cases by Protec

CDS Protec brand cases come in a variety of sizes to fit most snare, bass and tenor drums.

They are sturdy, great for long distance travelling and last for many years.

Please note that shipping empty cases is expensive so it's best to try and purchase the case at the same time as the drum.



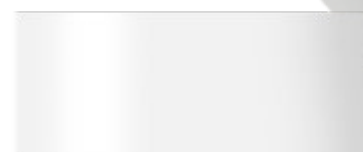
Colours & Sizes

Premier Traditional Drums come in a variety of standard lacquers (black, red, blue and white).

Popular sizes are:

15x12"	16x12"	18x12"
26x10"	28x12"	28x14"

Please [email](#) for current stock and availability.



Humes & Berg Tuxedo Soft Cases For Bass Drums

Available in 26x12", 26x14", 28x14" and 28x16" sizes, these cases work well alone or as extra protection when included with a hard case.

It's popular to use soft cases to carry the drums locally, and to use a hard case along with the soft case when travelling on long road trips or flights.



Profile Soft Cases For Snare & Tenor Drums

Available in a variety of sizes for snare and tenor drums, the soft cases can be carried over your shoulder and also coupled with hard cases for ultimate protection and drum portability.



KP Snare Drum Rain Cover

Protect your investment and kevlar drumhead with the KP Rain Cover. Fits all 14" snare drums.

Andante Soft Cases For Snare, Bass & Tenor Drums

Andante's deluxe soft cases come in a variety of sizes for the Andante range of NG Reactor and Pro Series drums. A sturdy zipper, carrying handle and ultra-soft interior makes these cases well worth the investment.



High Tension Kevlar Top Heads

Andante Core-tec Elite is the most popular drumhead on the market right now, taking over from the Remo Cybermax which previously held the top spot.

The head works on all modern drums including Andante, Premier, Pearl and the British Drum Company's Axial.



The Andante Core-tec Original is the predecessor to the Elite head and some drummers still consider its sound to be superior, especially for indoor playing. It does not protect from water quite as well as the Elite but can produce a very pure sound which works well on some drums.



Evans Pipe Band Series Kevlar Heads are black in colour and come in two slightly different sizes.

PB-SB1A is designed to fit oversized 14" Pipe Band snare drums (Premier).

PB-SB1B is designed to fit standard 14" Pipe Band snare drums (Andante, Pearl etc.).

The head is typically very stable at high tension and produces a distinct sound and look that some drummers prefer.



Bottom Heads for Snare Drums

The Remo AM Hazy is the most popular bottom snare head on the market. It works well for all popular high tension snare drums.

The head is a 1-ply 3-mil thickness with a hazy, not clear finish.

It comes up to pitch quickly and allows the bottom snares on most drums to be set almost immediately.



The Aquarian Classic Clear Snare is a popular alternative to the AM Hazy above. It's also a single ply 3-mil head with Aquarian's no pull Safe-Lok hoop design.

The head takes a little longer to come up to pitch but tends to stay at top tension for longer.

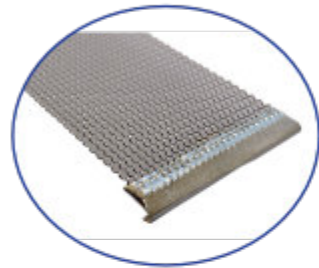


The Evans SS300 is another contender for excellent bottom snare response with a slightly 'punchier' tone than the others. It features a 3-mil single ply also with Evans 360 Technology for quick and easy tuning.

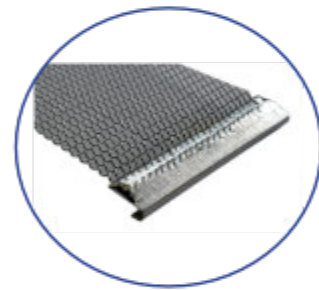


Top & Bottom Snares for Snare Drums

ANDANTE



The NG Reactor Top Snare (750B) is the only wire snare that will work with the NG Reactor Snare Drum.

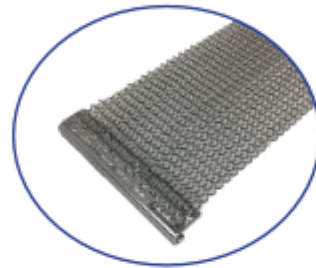


The older DTS 6s top snare (750A) for Andante snare drums pre-NG Reactor model.

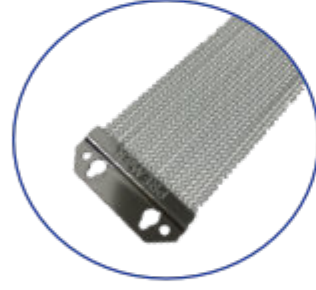


The Andante bottom snare (752) will work on NG Reactor and DTS 6s snare drums.

Premier



The Premier Top Snare (677) works on all Premier model High Tension snare drums from the HTS200 all the way through to the HTS800 model.



The Premier Bottom Snare (678) works on all Premier High tension snare drums.

How often should you change snares?

Most bands will change snare wires once or twice a year. The constant movement and stretching of the snare means it will wear out over time and become more of a tired elastic band sound than a shiny 'crack'. The snare wires as they get tired will also start to rattle endlessly which results in more tension being applied to the point where the drum starts to sound choked and dull.

When you change snares, it's also best to change heads and clean your drum. Budgeting for yearly heads and snares will keep your drum in top condition for many years.

Bass & Tenor Heads

The REMO Powermax Ultra White Pipe Band Tenor and Bass head is a single ply 10-mil head with an internal free-floating muffle ring for added tone control.

It can be used on the top or on both the top and bottom of tenor drums depending on the drum and tone required.

They come in a variety of sizes as listed in the chart.

Tenor Sizes	Bass Sizes
14" PM (8.00.01)	24" PM (8.01.07B)
15" PM (8.00.02)	26" PM (8.01.08B)
16" PM (8.00.03)	28" PM (8.01.09B)
18" PM (8.00.04)	
20" PM (8.00.05)	
22" PM (8.00.06)	

Aquarian Articulator

The Aquarian Articulator drum head is made with Aquarians Power-Play(TM) bright white film and features a single band of muffle strip around the inside edge of the head. This strip does not interfere with the bearing edge at all and allows the head to float freely against the shell.

It can be used as a top or bottom head choice, or in combination with other heads including Aquarian's own Classic Clear tenor heads. These heads have a single clear 10-mil ply with no dampening and can be used to lengthen the decay of any tenor drum sound when used on the bottom of the drum.

Tenor Sizes	Bass Sizes
14" AA (9.21.01)	26" AA(9.21.07)
15" AA (9.21.02)	28" AA (9.21.08)
16" AA (9.21.03)	
18" AA (9.21.04)	
20" AA (9.21.05)	
22" AA (9.21.06)	
Aquarian Classic Clear	
14" CC (11.01.01)	
15" CC (11.01.02)	
16" CC (11.01.03)	
18" CC (11.01.04)	
20" CC (11.01.05)	
22" CC (11.01.06)v	

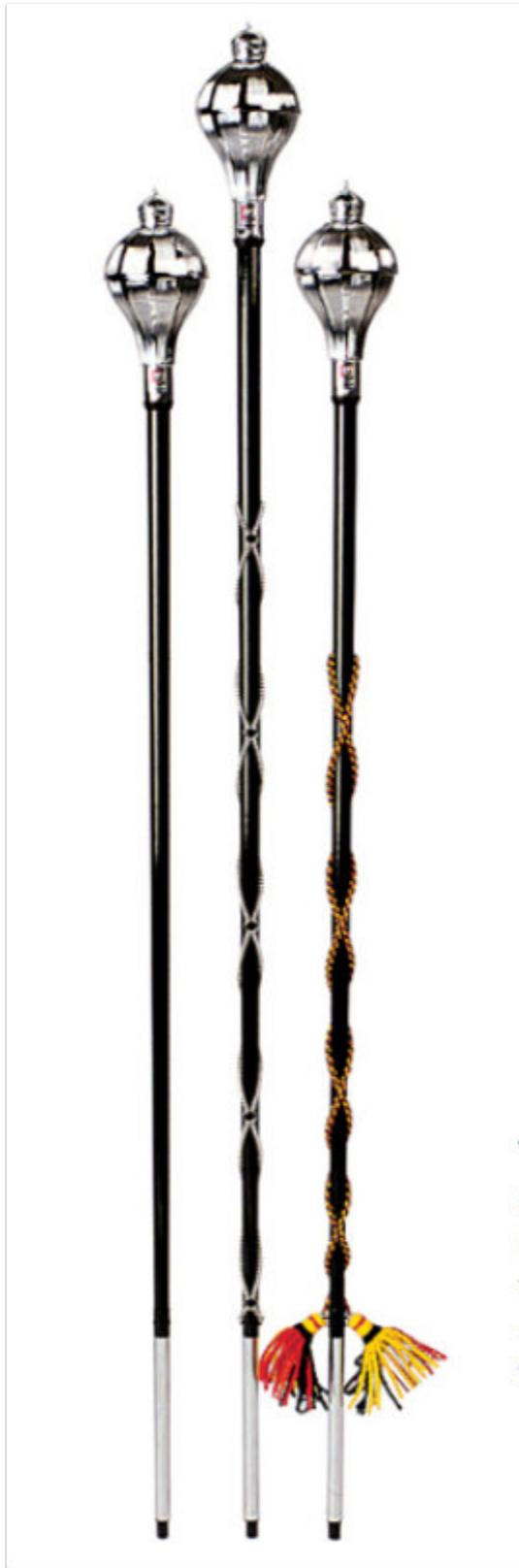
How often should you change B&T Heads?

Yearly is best. Changing heads allows you to inspect the drum for damage, clean the drum and grease any moving parts.

Drums that stay under tension with old heads for many years tend to warp and become difficult to tune. This is especially true for wood-hoop tenor drums. Drums can last for many many years but only if they're looked after well.

Drum Major Maces

Premier®



The Premier Drum Major Mace comes in two standard lengths of 54" (12.00.01) and 60" (12.00.02). In addition, the mace is supplied with either chains or cords as requested. The chains or cords are installed by the user with the included instructions.



Practice Pads

The Cameron Practice Pad is manufactured here in Ontario by world-renowned drummer and teacher Hugh Cameron. The pad is one of Hugh's most successful products and is played by top drummers all over the world.

It comes in two versions now (Regular (soft) or Cadet (medium to hard) with regular being the popular option for most drummers.

Regular



Cadet



Multiple World Champion Band,
Solo and Leading Drummer
Steven McWhirter says.....

I have been using the Cameron Regular Pad for well over 20 years now and absolutely love the feel and durability of this product. It has travelled the world many times, easy to pack and works perfectly on a table or your lap. You can check out some recordings of my Cameron Pad on www.drummingondemand.com/learn



The KP Pro Practice Pad



The Jim Kilpatrick Pro Pad features two interchangeable inserts in a grey mylar plastic and black soft foam. The plastic insert is designed for ultimate clarity when practicing and the foam insert for silent workout in small living spaces.

An 8mm bottom thread can be used to attach the pad to any cymbal stand or it can be used with the optional KP Multi Pad Adapter.

Sticks, sticks, glorious sticks.....



The Jim Kilpatrick range of snare drum sticks are the world's best-selling pipe band drum sticks. Jim's exacting standards and legendary status as a pipe band solo, band and leading drummer are on full display with his range of drum products. The KP2 stick is made of quality North American maple and comes in a natural finish and a variety of vibrant colours.



KP2 Natural



KP2 Purple



KP2 Black



KP2 Red



KP2 Blue



KP2 White



KP2 Green



KP2 Orange

KP3 (Natural Only)



The KP3 is the same outline as the KP2 but overall dimensions slightly thicker. As a result stick weights are heavier in general. It makes a great winter practice stick for those building up some endurance and power over the practice season.



All snare drum sticks are paired by Doug Stronach for balance, weight, pitch and tone before shipping.

ANDANTE



Steven McWhirter SM1



Reid Maxwell



Paul Turner



Stephen Creighton



John Moneagle



Arthur Cook

***Please email if a stick you'd like isn't featured in our catalog. We may have it in stock or can get it for you.



Doug Stronach DS1

Eric Ward



Neil

Finding good sticks is hard and most drummers go through a stage of buying every stick in existence in order to test and find the perfect pair that feels just right for them.

If you don't feel like spending a small fortune on new sticks, then let Doug Stronach's years of pipe band experience guide you in your search for the perfect pair.

We test every pair of snare sticks for weight, pitch, balance and tone. This takes us time, but we're drummers too and we know that taking the time to select a good pair makes a massive difference in the response, sound and feel when you play.

CDS offers North America's largest stock of pipe band model snare drum sticks. Over 1000 pairs are in stock at any time covering all the latest models plus some older classics and long-forgotten gems. Please [email](mailto:sales@customdrumsound.com) for more info.

Tenor Mallets

TyFry

TyFry Ultimate Tenor Mallets come in a variety of standard colours as well as custom colour options for head, shaft and strings. The stick features an 8.25" injection moulded shaft with a light synthetic fur head.

In addition, the TyFry Ultimate comes in a practice version, suitable for playing on table tops and other hard surfaces. Standard colours are typically in stock, while other custom colours may need to be ordered. Please [email](#) for more information.



Black



White



Red



Dark Blue



Yellow



Dark Green

TyFry Ultimate Practice Mallets



KP Tenor Mallet Rain Covers

Protect your tenor sticks with the KP Tenor Mallet Covers. Sold in pairs and fits most standard size tenor mallet heads.



Ace Percussion Mallets

The Ace Tenor Stick features a light wood-coloured shaft and white synthetic fur head. It is a special order item. Please [email](#) for more information.

M&G Bass Mallets

The M&G Original and M&G Attack models are made to compliment each other. The M&G Original, which has been in existence since the 1980s, has recently undergone a change in handle design. The familiar ribbed pattern, has given way to a smoother and sturdier design. The M&G Attack still offers the snare stick style handle which is most comfortable for those players coming from a snare drum background or with smaller hands.

The sound difference is a slight mid range bump with the Attack model for a better defined stroke, while the Original model maintains its smooth and round sound that's been its hallmark for many years.

Both sticks come in the same four basic colours, with a few custom options sometimes available depending on supply. Please [email](#) for more information.



M&G Original



M&G Attack

Standard Colours



RED



WHITE



BLACK



BLUE

Promark OBD4 Military Beater



The Promark OBD4 is a hard felt beater suitable for military style playing. A snare stick style hickory handle with a 2" head gives a punch to each note that's hard to ignore.

Beware, this stick can put dents in your drum heads if forced. Use with caution.

Tuning Keys & Tools

Premier Heavy Duty Drum Key



The Premier Heavy Duty Drum Key works on all tension bolts with a square head including Premier, Pearl and the British Drum Company.

Andante 5mm Key by Spaenaur



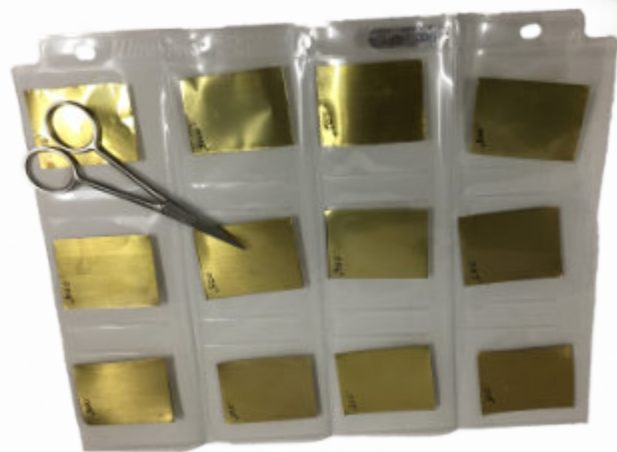
This 5mm drum key works on all Andante snare, tenor and bass drums.

Evans Bit Key



The Evans Bit Key is designed to fit inside the chuck of most standard power drills allowing you to loosen and tighten bolts with square heads quickly. The bit must be used with caution as over-tensioning and resulting head breaks can happen almost immediately with high-powered electric and battery drills. We suggest drills with internal brakes so that the bit stops turning immediately once you release the trigger.

If you're working on a whole corps of drums at once, then this drill bit can really help speed the workflow up. If you're new to changing heads and tuning drums, then we suggest you start with the good old-fashioned hand key as pictured above.



The Hugh Cameron Shim Pack contains various thicknesses of brass material designed to help shim your top snare. A set of scissors able to cut the brass into thin strips is included.

Top snare shimming was a process developed by Hugh Cameron to precisely 'tune' the top snare for maximum response.

If you've ever been to a Hugh Cameron tuning workshop then you'll know exactly what these are for.

The KP Tuning Gauge

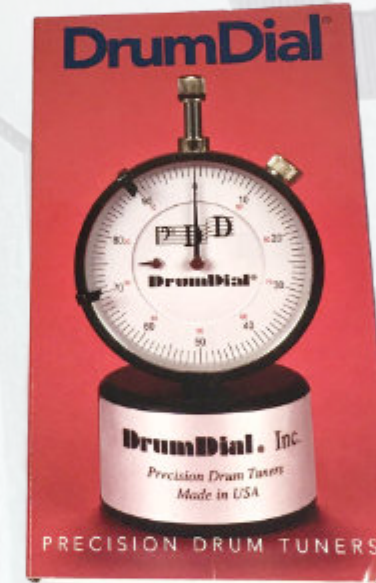
The KP Tuning Gauge measures the distance between the top hoop and suspension ring on snare drums, allowing you to accurately set tension with each head change.

This is similar to the KP Blue and Black Tuning blocks which are no longer available.



Precision Drum Dial

The Precision Drum Dial is a tympanic measuring device used to tune tenor and bass drum heads. It's a simple device that measures the tension at each tuning point around the drum. You can use it to quickly set a starting tension for your drum heads, then fine tune by ear and an electronic tuner after that.



The Vic Firth Bag

The Vic Firth Bag holds an extra pairs of snare drum sticks in a tough nylon bag designed to velcro around the posts on your snare drum.



84321 Exercise by Doug Stronach

Being able to play a repetitive pattern again and again without fault is an age-old practice for drummers hoping to build speed, endurance and control. There are many popular exercises like this one, but I like this for its simplicity and ability to add variations to work different parts of your technique. You can watch a video on the basics of this exercise and some of the technique being used by following this link:

<https://youtu.be/R6LAcSmZDow>

8 4 3 2 1

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www.dougstronach.com

Variations to be applied:

Strathspey and Reel - massed band style

If there's such a thing as a massed band strathspey and reel score for drummers then these might be it. I learned a version of these scores as a young drummer in Scotland many years ago and they have consistently showed up time and time again in many tattoos and group performances where more than one band was in attendance. Highland dancers are often added to the spectacle at these group events and they like them played fast. A nice simple drum score is the key to speed and clarity for any multi-band performance. Although the standard tune names are given, these scores will work for a variety of lighter 2 parted strathspey and reel melodies and at tempos slower or faster than those suggested. You can watch a practice video of the scores being played here: <https://youtu.be/nXPudYjakko>

Strathspey 120bpm

Orange & Blue

www.dougstronach.com

Reel 82bpm

The Fairy Dance

www.dougstronach.com

Slings and Stands



Gemini Sling



The brand new Hosbilt Gemini Sling is a double waist sling designed to allow complete arm and shoulder freedom to flourish and play while still carrying the drum.

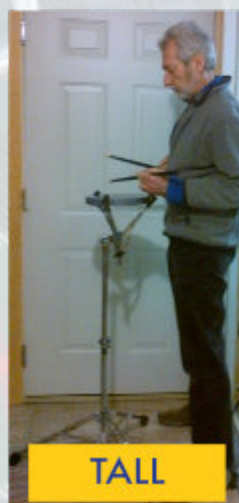
The Hosbilt Deluxe and Hosbilt Plain tenor and snare drum sling offers an over the shoulder traditional sling option. The Deluxe version adds an additional waistbelt (pictured) to help support the drum better.



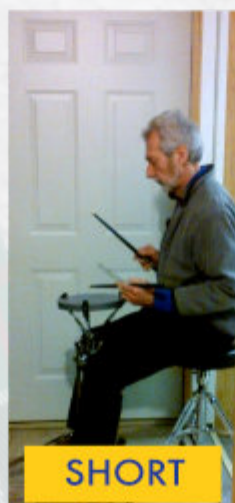
Gibraltar Basket Snare Drum and Pad Stand

The Gibraltar Basket Snare Stand comes in two sizes (short or tall) able to carry a full-size drum or practice pad.

The short version extends from 18" to 25" (plus height of the drum or pad) while the tall version has a range of 26" to 40" (plus the height of the drum or pad). Using it with a drum at maximum extension is not recommended and the tri-pod legs should be on a flat surface and in a position to avoid the drum from falling over at any point.



TALL



SHORT

KP AIRlift Stands



AIRlift Snare

The Jim Kilpatrick AIRlift series of snare, tenor and bass stands allows the player complete control of height and angle adjustment in a light and easy to carry aluminum design. The snare version is mounted using the Kilpatrick Snare Carrier Mounting bracket (not included), while the tenor stand allows the drum's carry hook to clip into place on the top of the stand.



AIRlift Tenor

The Kilpatrick AIRlift Tenor Stand has the same tripod leg design as the snare version, but with a top piece (pictured) that allows the carry hook to slip into.



AIRlift Bass

The Kilpatrick AIRlift Bass Stand offers a four leg version for added support. The bass drum rests on four posts that can be manipulated for any size of bass drum.

Hercules Bass Stand

The Hercules Bass Drum Stand is a fold-up keyboard stand that extends high enough to allow a bass drum to sit on it and be played as if carried. It's a relatively inexpensive option that's great for long rehearsals inside or out.



KP Snare Carriers



KP Bass Carriers



STANDARD

The Kilpatrick Standard and ABS Snare Carriers are the undisputed workhorse of the pipe band world. This lightweight aluminum design offers multiple points of adjustment to be able to fit many body shapes and sizes.

All Snare carriers come with one attachment bracket for the drum included. More can be purchased separately if needed.



ABS

The ABS version includes the Articulating Back Support Auto Release system for added comfort and support.

Please note, the ABS back cushion is not covered under warranty. Care should be taken to avoid punctures or tears.

***The snare bracket is included with both standard and ABS carriers.



The Kilpatrick Standard and ABS Bass Carriers feature a lightweight aluminum design that offers multiple points of adjustment to fit many body shapes and sizes.

The bass drum rests on soft pads that can be adjusted in height and tilt for perfect positioning.



The ABS version includes the Articulating Back Support Auto Release system for added comfort and support.

Please note, the ABS back cushion and bass cushion pads are not covered under warranty. Care should be taken to avoid punctures or tears.



The carrier will only work with bass drum that have 2 or 3 eyelets as pictured. Single eyelet bass drums will not work with this carrier.

The Brow Fry Bass Drum Carrier



Sized to fit different shaped bodies, the Brow Fry carrier is one of Ontario's many pipe band success stories. The criss-cross straps at the back and included pillow allow maximum comfort and protection for the body and drum.

This carrier has a single hook and will work on one or three eyelet bass drums. See size chart below for sizing details.

Brow Fry Bass Carriers (waist in inches)

Size	Minimum	Maximum
S	NA	32
M	32	38
L	38	44
XL	44	48
XXL	48	NA

Please note extra straps are available to re-size carriers. Please email for more details.



The TG Harness by Andante

Designed by Tom & Gordon Brown the Andante Snare Carrier attaches to the carrying handle of all Andante snare drums. With the included eyebolt (as pictured), it can also be used with any snare drum that has an s-hook attached to the drum. The lightweight aluminum design is simple and effective.

Pearl MX Carrier

The Pearl MX Carrier is a basic t-bar style carrier suitable for short as well as medium and longer body types. It's rugged no-nonsense construction means it will last for many years.

This carrier works with Premier and Pearl drums, but will need the KP Adaptor posts to work with Andante model drums.

This item is only available while stocks last.



Attachment bracket included with Pearl MX Carrier.

Carrier Parts



The Jim Kilpatrick Andante Adaptor Posts are needed to use a Kilpatrick Standard or ABS snare carrier with an Andante snare drum.



The Jim Kilpatrick Snare Drum Carrier Adaptor is included with every Standard or ABS KP Carrier. It can also be purchased separately if needed.



The Jim Kilpatrick Multi Pad Adaptor allows the KP Pro Pad to be screwed on to the adaptor and used with any KP Snare Carrier or AIRLift Snare Drum Stand.

With the addition of the CDS/Cameron Pad Interface (below), you can use any wood-backed practice pad with the multipad adaptor and KP range of carriers and stands.

The wood base is bolted to the adaptor, and the included velcro strips used to attach the pad. This works with the Cameron Regular or Cadet practice pad and any practice pad with wood or plastic backing. Please note foam or soft-backed practice pads will not work.



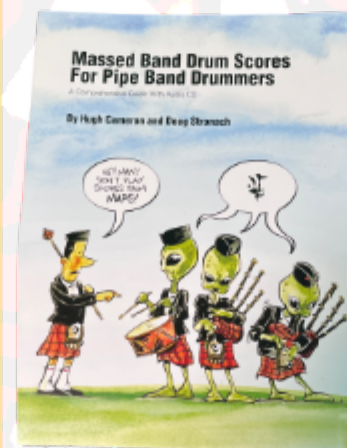
Books



Doug Stronach's Snare Drum Tutor Book and CD is North America's best selling tutor book for beginner pipe band drummers. The book includes a 79 track Audio CD and 14 digital videos.

The Ontario Massed Band Scores were first introduced by Hugh Cameron in 1974. Since then, they've become the standard four scores played by bands all over North America.

Please note that new massed band scores were introduced to competition bands in 2021, however these scores are still used by many competing and non-competing bands as part of their standard repertoire. An Audio CD is included with the book.



The Alex Duthart Book 1 and 2 offers a glimpse into the art and magic of one of pipe band's greatest drummers. His compositions and performances were ground-breaking and helped shape pipe band drumming into what we know it to be today.

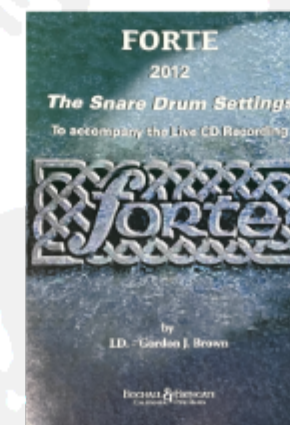
Any and all aspiring drummers or composers can't overlook these books. They are a must-have for all pipe band drummers.



Originally from Ontario Canada, multiple World Champion drummer Graham Brown is leading drummer and full-time teacher at Houston's St. Thomas Episcopal School.

Graham's compositions have produced world class ensembles in all grades of pipe band competition. The scores in this book range all the way from Beginner to Grade 1 presented as Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels.

Online audio recordings of the scores are also available.



Fans of Gordon Brown and Boghall & Bathgate Pipe Band will delight in following along and learning the scores from their 2012 album 'Forte'. Professionally typeset and laid out, the scores offer a glimpse in to the style and thinking of one of pipe band's major ensemble players and composers.

The rich history of drumming within the Boghall and Bathgate organization is on full display here. Please note the CD must be purchased separately from the book.



Reid Maxwell is North America's most celebrated performer and teacher. His multiple World Championship band and drum corps awards has helped place Canada firmly on the map of world drumming and band excellence. This long-awaited for book lays out his path of development from beginner to seasoned player. A must-have in any serious drummer's library.

The Full Score and Other Musings^{by Doug Stronach}

Long gone are the days when writing just the snare drum score would satisfy the main rhythm accompaniment needed for a full drum corps sound. The bass and tenor have become an integral addition to the sound of a drum corps with their parts not only being composed and notated on paper, but the drums tuned and rhythms voiced to different pitches across the tenor and bass line.

The notation opposite is an example of what's called a Full Score, where the bass and tenor parts are written and notated along with the snare line. It's a great way for new composers to start writing bass and tenor parts, and also a great way for the bass, tenor and snare drummers to visually see how all the parts interact with one other. This score would still be considered incomplete however, as voicing and flourishing has yet to be added to this framework of basic rhythms.

Although it may be best for only one composer to write all of the snare, bass and tenor parts to achieve one single rhythmic focus (a point that can be often argued in bands), it would still need the specialised input of bass and tenor drummers to decide the flourishing and voicing of the different rhythms.

The idea of presenting a score like this is not new but it has struggled to become common place, perhaps due to the fact that most scores are still hand-written and the time it takes to notate clean copies by hand is considerable. However, times are changing and notation software is getting much easier to handle. Personally, I'd never write out a full score by hand, but inside a computer it's relatively easy-going once you master the basic work flow of the software. This multi-line format in software form is also very easy to break out into the individual parts that the snare, bass and tenor drummers can then work from.

The Full Score is also known as the Conductor's Score and gives an overview of the entire ensemble, especially when the pipe tune is added to it. This is how the Full Score is presented in the RSPBA Tutor Books from many years ago. A conductor in pipe bands is not something that's been generally accepted of course, but to me is an obvious next step towards better band ensemble.

Similar to the Full Score, the idea of a conductor in pipe bands is again not something new. Famed Dysart and Dundonald Pipe Major Robert Shepherd was doing it way back in the 1970s and 80s along with the semi-circle concert formation idea. It has to also be noted that the Bagad bands in Brittany France have been doing both the conductor and concert formation very successfully for many years.

Both ideas are a step in the right direction as far as I'm concerned, but still many years later struggling to take hold in traditional pipe bands. Change can be frustratingly slow in the pipe band world with our many rules and regulations that make competition fairer for everyone, but are always at the same time in danger of stifling the development and future of our art form.

Snare drummers will note that there is no dot and cut sixteenth notes notated in their part. This is a score written 'round' as in all notes even but with a slight swing feel as noted in text above the first bar.

It doesn't really matter to me whether the dot and cut sixteenth note is written or not (I've done it both ways). Good drummers will find the right amount of swing in these notes to make the rhythms work and by taking the dot and cut out of the sixteenth notes, it might just suggest better that ALL notes sound best with some element of swing rhythm added to them. This, in my experience, is more accurate to how we actually play.

Cutting Fern

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with swing.....

The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of three systems. Each system contains three staves: Snare, Tenor, and Bass. The Snare part is marked 'with swing.....' and includes various rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. The Tenor and Bass parts provide a steady accompaniment. The score is written in a 'round' style, meaning all notes are even, but it is intended to be played with a slight swing feel.

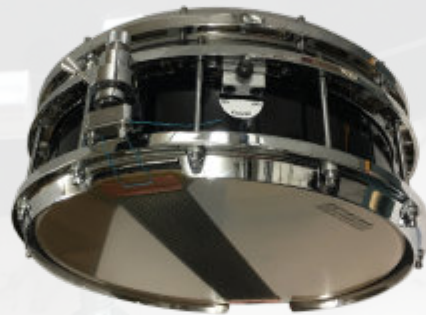
Stuff we forgot to mention.....

Spare Parts

We have an extensive collection of new and used parts for drums and carriers dating way back to the 1980s. So large is the collection that our founder Hugh Cameron has amassed, that the idea of taking pictures and describing everything would make a sane drummer go mad. Therefore we invite you to contact us directly or through the [contact page](#) on our website to ask about any parts you may need. A picture is worth a thousand words so please send or have available pictures of your broken or missing part so we can solve your issue as soon as possible.

Custom Conversion Drums

Yes, we can still do this but the parts are hard to source and timing is very unpredictable in this post-covid world. If you're interested in one of these custom drums then please get in touch. We can add you to the email list for information on when we'll have them in stock again or we can take your order right away so you're first on the list when new ones arrive.



Custom Work

We can cut bearing edges, sand snare beds, cut shells, add wraps and do other custom work for you. It tends to be local customers who can take advantage of these services as shipping large items like drums and drum shells back and forth is expensive and comes with some element of risk. Still, we offer the services as much as we can (based on the time of year mainly) and we're always really happy to help any of our customers with information on how to do any of these tasks themselves.

Tuning and Repair

Yes we do, but again it tends to be local customers who can take advantage of these services. Sometimes there's no option but to send your drum to us for repair and that works fine. But if it can be done yourself, we'll try to help you through with the setup or repair you're needing to do to save on shipping costs and the potential of damage to the drum while in transit.

Bass Drum Head Art

We can do this for you or we will help you do it yourself and point you in the right direction to get it done. The reality is if we do it for you, it will cost you more money than if you just do it yourself. It's not really that difficult and it's already a fairly pricey adventure so keeping costs down is a good thing. Let us know what you're thinking about for artwork, and we'll tell you how to go about getting it ready for print. The best way to advertise your band is with bass drum head art so the money invested is worth every dollar in our opinion.



Custom bearing edge and snare bed cuts

Premier Custom Conversion in chrome hardware.



Custom wrapped snare drum

Who We Are

Custom Drum Sound is an online retailer based in Ontario, Canada. We manufacture pipe band drumming products, distribute pipe band drumming products, and retail products directly to our customers. Please email using the [contact page](#) on our website to enquire more about products and product pricing, or email us directly if you're already an existing customer.