

## HEAD SELECTION: Know Your Options

There are essentially two recommended options for timpani heads; coated and uncoated heads. Evans selection of timpani heads are the choice of many of the world's leading orchestral timpanists, colleges, and conservatories.

**Evans Strata™** — All Evans timpani heads are pre-tensioned and have a black powder-coated steel insert ring for tuning consistency. The Strata Series heads feature a smooth calf-colored coating that promotes a warm tone and clear pitch, which blends naturally with any ensemble.



**Evans Orchestral** — All Evans timpani heads are pre-tensioned and have a black powder-coated steel insert ring for tuning consistency. The thin 7.5mil white film of the Orchestral series provides an immediate pitch with a clear sustain that produces a brighter sound with slightly more overtones.



### High-Performance Quick Tips:

**The Right Spot:** The vertical line through the Evans logo indicates the primary grain direction of the film. Once you find your preferred 'sweet spot' on your first Evans head, the position relative to the logo will be consistent for every subsequent head.



**Short and Sweet:** In special situations where a very staccato sound is desired, mutes can be used. These mutes can be purchased or made simply by using pieces of fleece material in anyshape you wish.



**Reference Guide:** To make ordering easier, Evans has developed a Timpani Head Reference Chart which lists many of the known brands of drums for easier selection.

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

## 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 Promark 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)

D'Addario & Company, Inc.  
Farmingdale, NY 11735 USA  
[daddario.com](http://daddario.com)

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# TIMPANI SURVIVAL GUIDE

by Jim Bailey



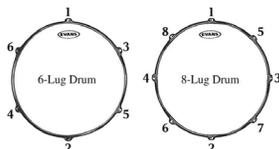
**D'Addario**

## GENERAL TUNING



### Instrument Care

1. Always 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.
2. Develop your “key technique” by monitoring the amount you turn each lug and how it affects pitch. Developing a good “feel” for tuning will only help the process.
3. Always use the Opposite Lug tuning Sequence (OLS) by referring to the diagram that is relative to the number of lugs on your drum.
4. Change heads once a year or when you notice a reduction in resonance and tone.



### High-Performance Quick Tips:



**Protect Your Investment** – Invest in a quality drop cover, hard cover, or ideally both. This will prolong the life expectancy of your heads and prevent damage to the lip of the bowl.

**Fingerprints** — Fingerprints will occasionally be transferred to your drum heads while playing and muffling. Over time these prints will affect the resonance and overall tone of your heads. To reduce this, frequently wipe your heads clean with a microfiber cloth to remove fingerprints without scratching the surface of the head.

**Be on the Lookout** — Keep a sharp eye for preventative maintenance. Lubricate moving parts at least once a month. Check for loose nuts, bolts, or screws... replacing missing hardware is always more costly than a quick check.

## HEAD REPLACEMENT AND TUNING

1. Install a block of wood under the toe of the pedal to keep the pedal fixed with the heel down.
2. Remove the old head by detuning the lugs equally.
3. Clean debris or dirt from the counterhoop and drums.
4. Clean the bearing edge with #0000 steel wool and a solvent to remove residue. Buff clean with a white rag or microfiber cloth.
5. Lubricate the bearing edge by applying a thin coat of Teflon.
6. Mount the new head and finger-tighten all lugs to equal tension.
7. Using the appropriate sequential tuning method, begin with full key-turns on each lug until the drum begins to resonate.
8. Fine tune each lug using a chromatic tuner or head tension gauge. Listen for a clear, focused tone through the tuning process.
9. Tune the drum to the recommended pitch.  
Recommended Pitches:  
20"= F  
23"= D  
26"= Bb  
29"= F  
32"= D (pitches may vary according to brand).
10. Remove the block of wood under the pedal.



### High-Performance Quick Tips:

**Swap Them Out** — Replace older “T-shaped” tension rods with new rods that accept a timpani tuning key. This will make the drums easier to play and prevent any accidental detuning.

**Balancing Act** — You may notice that the pedal will not hold its position when tuning. The head has naturally stretched below the drum’s pitch range and the drum is no longer in balance. Bring the drum back up to its designated pitch to restore normal pedal operation.

## MALLET CARE AND SELECTION

### Mallet Choices and Care

1. Purchase the highest quality mallets you can afford. Cheap mallets will wear quickly, which will adversely affect the tone and longevity of your timpani heads, leaving you with the need to purchase new mallets and new heads.
2. Have a minimum of three pairs of mallets on hand (at all times) including staccato, general, and soft mallets. This will ensure that you are prepared with the right ‘tools’ for the job.
3. Avoid handling the felt heads as much as possible; this will only accelerate wear and tear.
4. Protect your investment by storing your mallets in a stick bag or stick case. The felt coverings on timpani mallets will sound best and last longer if you provide as much protection for them as possible while they’re being stored.



### High-Performance Quick Tips:

**Recovery is Key** — When the felt is worn out, purchase a recovering kit to keep your mallets (and heads) in top shape. Most kits are simple to use and include everything needed to recover your mallets.

**Stick Tray** — Always use a stick tray so that timpani mallets will never be kept on the floor and the player will have easy access to them for quick changes. If a tray is not available, a flat music stand with a black towel placed neatly on top is an acceptable substitute.

