A practical guideline for setting up a drum set

DRUM SET

SETUP

STEP

BY

STEP
UNPACKING AND ALLOCATING

You see two cardboard boxes in front of you. For reasons of transportation your drum set has been delivered dismantled into single parts. Don’t worry, by means of the following instructions we will help you to assemble your drum set correctly. Depending on the model, the quantities indicated may vary.

CONTENTS

First, we refer to the content of the two boxes and the allocation of the single drums.

BASS DRUM

- 1 drum shell,
- 12 wing screws with washers,
- 12 claw hooks,
- 1 bottom head,
- 1 batter head,
- 2 rims,
- 2 bass-drum legs (spurs)

SNARE DRUM

- 1 snare drum
- completely assembled
TOM-TOM 1 + 2
1 drum shell each
2 x 2 heads,
2 x 2 rims
2 x 10 wing screws with washers

FLOOR TOM
1 drum shell,
10 wing screws with washers,
2 heads,
2 rims,
3 legs

ACCESSORIES
1 tuning key,
1 pair of drumsticks

CYMBALS
Ride cymbal,
Crash cymbal,
2 hi-hat cymbals
Cymbals (if included in scope of delivery)
HARDWARE PACKAGE

1 bass-drum pedal

1 hi-hat stand

1 snare-drum stand

1 cymbal boom stand,
1 straight cymbal stand

2 tom-tom mounting arms
We begin with the bass drum. Take the bass drum shell and place it in such a way that the attachment screws of the bass drum legs as well as the tom-tom mounting assembly point downwards.

Now take the bottom head (black with logo) and lay it on the drum shell. The logo on the head should run parallel to the tom-tom assembly. Then lay down one of the two rims on it.
Finally take the long wing screws, add the washers and the claw hooks to them first (Fig. 3 and 4), and then attach them in the drum shell lugs designed for this purpose (Fig. 5 and 6).

At the bottom of the drum shell, the long tensioning screws without wings are used (Fig. 7).

**NOTICE:**
Fasten the screws in a criss-cross fashion (opposite screws) and screw only to the point where you feel a slight resistance (Fig. 7).

Now turn the bass drum upside down and repeat the same process steps with the batter head side.
The same principle is applied to all three drums. It does not matter whether you begin with the batter side or the bottom side. The batter and the bottom heads are identical. For safe transportation, the rims are fastened to one side of the drum shell with two screws each.

Fig 1/2: First unfasten the screws and remove the two rims from the drum shell. Here, too, take one head each per side and place it on the drum shell.

Fig 3: Then add the rim specially designed for each tom.
NOTICE:
The toms have different diameters! Thus the appropriate heads and rims with different sizes are attached to the delivery!

Fig 4: The wing screws are identical for all three tom types (tom-toms and floor tom).

Fig 5: Take again screw after screw, lay a washer underneath and attach the rim. Apply the same method to each side of the tom-toms and the floor tom. Here, too, first tighten the screws in a criss-cross fashion until slight resistance. Proceed in the same way as for the bass-drum shell (see p. 5, Fig. 7).
3 TUNING OF THE SINGLE DRUMS

Good tuning of the drums is the most important feature of a good sound. Tune the single drums in a criss-cross fashion. Thus the tuning screws can be tightened relatively equally and the tension of the head is arranged consistently.

You can tighten the screws in a criss-cross fashion with your fingers (!) until it becomes hard to continue screwing. Now take the tuning key and turn each screw in a criss-cross fashion a further 1-2 turns. Follow the sequence indicated in the diagram for tightening the screws.

Take care that the rim-head distance is the same all around. In the case of new shells, it takes some time until the head fits snugly onto the shell. A drum sounds good only if the head’s tension is optimal.

Check the head tension at regular intervals by pressing down on the centre of the head with the palm of your hand. You will feel immediately if the tension is too loose. Never mind if you hear occasional crunching and cracking, this is normal for new heads.

Now tune the head up until the snapping stops. Now turn back again each screw 1/4 turn until you have reached the desired pitch.

It is a matter of taste how high or low the tone of your drums is supposed to be. The tom-toms and the floor tom should have different pitches.
ASSEMBLING THE HARDWARE

BASS-DRUM PEDAL

Slide the connecting rod into the grooves of the bass-drum pedal frame (Fig. 1 – 3). Depending on the design of the bass-drum pedal, a fixedly mounted base plate may also be available. In this case, this step does not apply (carefully read the separate Owner’s Manual for your bass-drum pedal).

Our bass-drum pedal has a clamp mount ensuring a secure connection with the bass drum. Other bass-drum pedals also provide rubber feet or velcro strips at the bottom side to prevent them from sliding.

All other settings such as pedal angle, return-spring tension, etc. can be made after assembling the drum set.

Attach the beater to the beater holder and tighten the screw (Fig. 4).
HI-HAT

Fig. 1: Pull apart the three legs at the bottom of the hi-hat until a stable position is reached and tighten the locking screw.

Fig 2: Fix the two brackets of the pedal into the openings designed for this purpose at the foot of the pedal by pressing them together. Proceed in the same way as for assembling the bass-drum pedal.

Fig. 3/4: Next take the tension rod and screw it into the thread of the stand.

Fig. 5/6: Place the middle tube with the hi-hat support over the tension rod and tighten it at the desired height.

Fig. 7: Take the metal bottom disc and subsequently the felt pad of the same size and place them onto the hi-hat support of the stand.
Fig. 1: Now guide the lower hi-hat cymbal (which is marked with “bottom”) through the tension rod and place it onto the hi-hat support felt-pad as illustrated.

Fig. 2: In this figure, you can see the holding system of the upper hi-hat cymbal. The first felt pad is already mounted.

Fig. 3: Place the upper hi-hat cymbal onto the felt pad of the holding system.

Fig. 4/5: Now place the second felt ring and then the metal disc onto it.

Fig. 6: Tighten the locking nut so that the cymbal is fixed.

Fig. 7: Finally guide the upper hi-hat cymbal with the assembled holding system through the tension rod and tighten it.

Fig. 8/9: Press the tension rod a little bit downwards and tighten the locking screw at the point where upper and lower cymbals are about 1 – 2 cm (0.4 – 0.8 inch) apart.
RIDE AND CRASH CYMBALS

Fig 1: First open the stand legs and tighten them with the wing nut. The size of the two cymbal stands is a little bit different. The larger stand is provided for the cymbal boom.

Fig 2: We begin with the cymbal boom stand. First slide the middle tube and the spacer tube into the stand unit and tighten all with the wing nuts.

Fig 3: Now slide the boom arm into the boom joint and tighten it slightly with the boom joint screw. Pull out the boom arm as needed.

Fig. 4/5/6: Assembling the straight cymbal stand is similar to that for the cymbal boom stand. Here, the cymbal holder is to be attached directly to the extensible spacer tube.

Fig. 7/8/9: The crash cymbal is now to be mounted onto the cymbal boom stand. Take the cymbal and put it between the felt rings onto the pin. Lay the washer on top for stabilization and tighten it with the wing nut attached. The ride cymbal is to be mounted in the same way onto the straight cymbal stand. Using the tilt-joint screw you can adjust the inclination of the cymbals.
ASSEMBLING THE SNARE-DRUM STAND

Fig. 1: Pull the stand legs apart and tighten them with the wing nut at the tripod part.

Fig. 2: Push the upper part with the basket arms onto the tripod and tighten it.

Fig. 3: Open the basket arms to horizontal position by first loosening the union nut and then folding down the basket arms.

Fig. 4: Lay the completely assembled and tuned snare drum onto the basket arms and re-tighten the nut to prevent the snare drum from sliding.

Using the wing nut at the joint you can set the snare-drum inclination angle as needed.

ATTACHING THE PEDAL TO THE BASS DRUM

Fig. 1: Our pedal can be attached directly to the bass drum. To this end, push the pedal with open clamp under the bass-drum rim.

Fig. 2: Tighten the clamp screw to establish a stable connection between the bass-drum pedal and the bass drum.
SETTING UP THE DRUM SET

BASS DRUM

We begin with the bass drum. Put the bass drum in the place where the complete drum set is supposed to stand. A carpet helps to prevent the bass drum from slipping when playing later.

Fig. 1/2: Bring the bass drum legs into position. To this end, loosen the wing screw of the bass-drum legs. Turn the folded-in legs outside to establish a stable stand. The joint contains a gear that allows even adjustment of the angle and prevents unwanted loosening of the legs.

Fig. 3: To change the length of the legs, loosen the height adjustment nut with a key.

Fig. 4: Adjust the length such that the front side of the bass drum is located about one palm over the floor.
MOUNTING OF TOM-TOM 1 AND 2

Fig. 1/2: Fasten the two tom-tom mounting arms to the mounting assembly on top of the bass drum and adjust the appropriate angle for taking-up the tom-toms.

Fig. 3: Subsequently, attach the toms. Tom 1 is smaller in diameter and is fastened on the left side.

Fig. 4: Tom 2 is screwed into the right holding device (mirror-inverted set-up for left-handers).

Fig. 5: Adjust the position of the two toms in such a way that both are inclined towards the drummer. Both toms form a common surface for the drummer.
Fig. 6/7: The tom-tom holders are equipped with memory locks allowing a quicker setup next time. Slide the locks onto the mounting assembly or tom-tom holders and tighten them with the key.

A small peg on the memory locks prevents the tom-toms from turning out of position. When the drum set is dismantled, the memory locks remain in their position.

Check all holders and joints for stability.

**FLOOR TOM**

Fig. 1/2: Insert the floor tom legs into the floor tom leg brackets. To ensure maximum stability, the lower end of the legs should be turned outside in a 90-degree angle to the floor tom.

Place the floor tom to the right of the snare drum at about the same height.
Let’s now start with the complete setup. The individual drums are to be arranged around the bass drum as illustrated.

Place the snare drum (which is already mounted on the stand) slightly to the left of the bass drum. The bass-drum pedal between the snare drum and the floor tom must be easily accessible. Place the hi-hat to the left of the snare drum, that is, the snare drum is positioned between the legs of the drummer. Place the cymbal boom stand with the crash cymbal behind the snare drum and the straight cymbal stand with the ride cymbal behind the floor tom.

While sitting behind your drum set, put your right foot on the bass-drum pedal and your left foot on the hi-hat pedal. Set up the individual drums and cymbals such that they are inclined towards you and you can play them conveniently.
Don’t panic if any screws are left – in Sweden, this is normal as well. Be happy that you’ll always have some spare parts at hand :-) 

As already pointed out, the drum setups for left-handers are to be done in mirror-inverted fashion.

Drum set set-up and dismantling is a pure matter of practise. You will see that you can do without these assembly instructions after a few setups and subsequent dismantling.

There is still only one thing to say in the end:

Congratulations! You’ve made it! We now wish you a lot of fun with your new drum set and successful practising.

LET IT ROCK!

Your Thomann team :-)