

Caring for your

MID-EAST[®] est. 1973 Doumbek

When tuning a tunable doumbek, **DO NOT OVERTIGHTEN** the drum as this could damage it.

If the head is a natural skin, it will react to humidity; high humidity can loosen the natural skin head. Low humidity will tighten the natural skin head.

For natural heads, avoid extreme heat, cold, and humidity. Do not store your doumbek in a car.

Avoid placing any objects on top of your doumbek.

Clean the doumbek using a soft damp cloth or spray it with a water bottle and then lightly wipe it down.

If you have a small hole in a natural skin head and you are afraid it will tear, just close it up with super or white glue; apply a little glue to both the inside and outside of the drum head around the hole to close it up. There are also some commercial patch kits available. In a pinch, strong tape will hold temporarily.

Doumbeks can also be re-headed and natural skin heads can usually be put on drums with yellow wood glue, a hose clamp, and masking tape. Mid-East will re-head ceramic and wooden drums with natural skins and also sell natural skins.

Never use beaters or mallets on your doumbek, doing so will likely result in damage to the head.

MID-EAST[®] est. 1973 Doumbek Accessories

Doumbek
Case - NC08



Beginner Middle Eastern
Rhythms Series Beginner
LDRSB

Due to the nature of the materials used to construct a doumbek, it is recommended that you keep your doumbek in a case when transporting or when you have it in storage. Mid-East sells a variety of doumbek cases which are also displayed on our website. If you want to learn more about how to play the doumbek, check out Mid-East's doumbek instructional materials on our website.

Accessories

Doumbeks and accessories are available at www.ensoulmusic.com

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DOUMBEK



MD08D



EnSoul
MUSIC DESIGNS

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Doumbek

– OWNER'S GUIDE –

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About

The doumbek is a goblet shaped drum consisting of a thin single head membranophone. It is played with a light touch and varying finger techniques, the drum produces both a bass note, or “doum” and a higher “tek,” or “ka” sound. The doumbek is generally associated with Middle Eastern music. The thin drumhead creates a crisp sound when struck and the chalice cavity generates a bass resonance.

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How to Play

Remove all rings and bracelets to protect your drum before playing. When seated, you can place the head of the doumbek between your knees, with the base of the drum resting on your crossed ankles. You can also lay the doumbek on its side, across the hip. The drum head will be positioned just off center, in front of your body. For stability, rest your forearm over the bowl of the drum. For a right handed person, the body of the doumbek is level on the left hip with the left arm parallel to it. Strike the doumbek using wrist action, not arm action. Stroking around rim of a doumbek creates a high treble sound, but stroking the middle portion will make a low bass sound.

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Tuning a Fixed Head Doumbek

A fixed head doumbek cannot be manually tuned. If the head is loosened on a natural skin drum head due to humidity, one can tighten the head with a damp cloth placed on the playing surface for about 15 minutes. Then let the head dry naturally and tighten. It is important to make sure water does not get into the glue joint. Also, applying heat from a hair dryer or other heat source will tighten the head. But be careful not to allow the glue joint to get too warm. Tightening the drum head will make the drum have a higher pitch. For a lower pitch, you will have to loosen the drum head. To temporarily loosen the head of a fixed doumbek, you can try a little bit of water, rubbed evenly into the head with a cloth. This is not a method we recommend you rely on repeatedly. If the head of a fixed head doumbek is synthetic, it should hold tune indefinitely.

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Tuning a Tunable Doumbek

If you have a tunable doumbek with bolts connecting the head to the collar, you can loosen the bolts to loosen drum head or tighten bolts to make drum head tighter. Make sure not to tighten collar so much that there is no gap between the collar and body. If your drum head has hooks with nuts and bolts, you can tighten drum head by tightening bolts or loosen bolts to remove tension in head.



MAST-RD