

FIVE-STAR TECH TIPS

SNARE DRUM SELECTION

There's a good reason why drummers have such a wide variety of snare drums to choose from: each one has different sound and performance characteristics. And, because the snare drum is so important in defining the feel and mood in so many forms of contemporary music, understanding how each drum's tone, pitch, projection and articulation is affected by its material, weight, diameter and depth can help you decide which one is right for the music you play.

To begin with, the material or type of shell is a big influence on the sound of any drum. Wood shells such as maple and birch are popular because of their deep, dark sound and versatility. Metal shells made from steel, aluminum, copper, bronze and brass, for example, are brighter than wood and each has its own tonal qualities and applications, too. Other materials, from titanium and carbonfiber to acrylic and phenolic, provide even more tonal options.

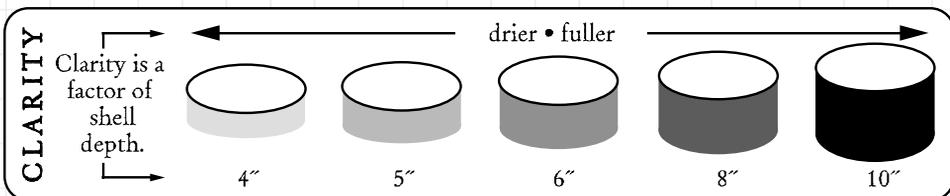
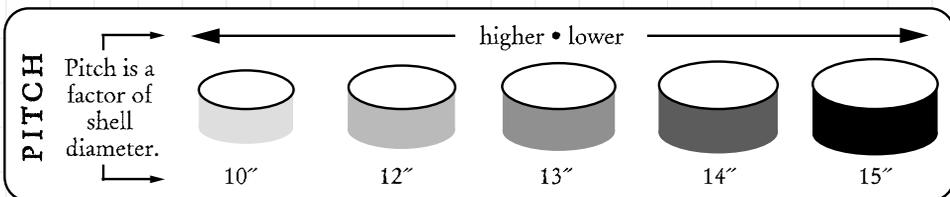
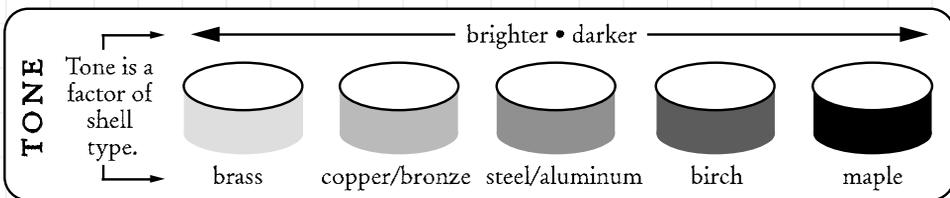
Secondly, size matters. The diameter of the drum determines its pitch and the depth

controls the clarity of the sound. The smaller the drum, the higher the sound. The shorter the shell, the drier the sound.

Shell thickness and weight also play a role in tone quality. A thicker, heavier shell will be brighter and higher in pitch than a lighter, thinner one.

Generally speaking, a drum with a higher pitch and brighter, more focused sound will tend to be louder, more powerful and preferred in high volume situations. But don't merely pick the brightest, thickest, heaviest, smallest, highest pitched snare drum you can find. All snare drums naturally have a powerful, focused sound due to their small, shallow design and characteristically tight tuning.

An extreme drum will have its limitations and you'll probably be better off with a more versatile, all-around drum in most cases. Plus, don't forget the sound and performance parameters of any snare drum can be easily modified by tuning, muffling and head and wire selection.



To learn more about snare drums, including the drums your favorite drummers play, ask your dealer or log on to the drum companies' websites listed throughout this guide.