

# DRUM CARE & RESOURCE GUIDE

HEATHER MCQUEEN STUDIO



## ABOUT HEATHERDRUMS

Each "HeatherDrum" is hand-formed on the potter's wheel, refined for optimal musical quality, and decorated with an earthy palette of textures and colors. Finished with a natural drumskin, they are as beautiful to display as they are to hear.

Produced solely by Heather McQueen at her clay studio in Chicago, USA, these traditional-style ceramic drums are made to be played, and are enjoyed by musicians worldwide.

## DRUM CARE BASICS

- Your drum loves to be played!
- Protect it from direct sunlight and extreme humidity
- These skins are thin; play with hands/fingers only
- Take care when setting ceramics on hard surfaces

## GENERAL CLEANING

- The ceramic drum body can be cleaned with soft scrub or cloth, dish soap and warm water. Unglazed areas may 'season' over time; this may not be 100% removable.
- The skin may develop an amber color from playing, this is good. If black or sticky areas develop, it can be gently removed, as above. Scrub gently in circular motion with even pressure, and let it dry completely before playing.

## HOW TO OIL THE DRUMSKIN

- In dry atmospheres, the skin may need to be oiled. It will look, feel or sound 'dry' (January, in Chicago)
- Suggested oils: essential oil of cedar, vitamin E oil
- Apply 4 drops on top, spread in spiral motion until absorbed, including sides of drum. Wipe off excess.



Heather McQueen, Ceramic Artist

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## DRUM STORAGE

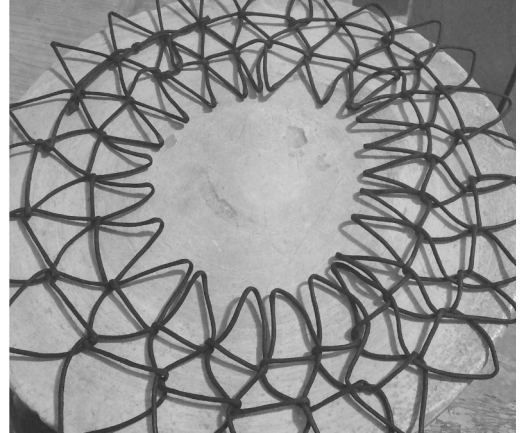
- Keep away from direct heat and sun, and store out of reach of children and pets if possible.
- Cover skin with fabric drum "hat" to prevent damage/ dust.
- For long term storage, wrap and box; keep in a dry area.

## NATURAL SKIN TUNING

- Be respectful that your drum has a skin and a voice.
- "Wake up" the skin by rubbing in circular motion with your palm, to create friction and help warm up the instrument.
- Natural skin drums will change tone with the weather.
- The oils from your hands are good for the drum.
- Henna applies beautifully on natural skin drums but may alter tone. Oil the skin after scraping off the dried henna.
- Tuning is done with heat, use caution not to burn the skin.
- Special heat lamps are made for drums, which can be inserted into the tail and controlled by dimmer switch.
- After removing from heat, rub drum head lightly, to create friction and allow the tone to stabilize.
- Protect from humidity while playing outdoors, by resting the drum on a blanket or water-protective surface.

## REPAIRS

- Skins are strong and can last years, with careful handling.
- Skin tears can develop naturally due to dryness/age.
- Stabilize small tears on sides (non-playing surface) with wood glue or similar, using a toothpick to push inside. Secure with tape and let it dry, then remove the tape.
- If the tear extends across the curved playing edge, or top of the drum, it will need to be replaced.
- Ceramic repairs to the tail-end of the drum are usually cosmetic; use 2-part epoxy which sets in 5 minutes.
- Use a hairdryer to heat ceramic, to pull glue into small cracks. Avoid heating the skin.
- Cracks that extend over the curved playing rim will affect drum sound. If the crack doesn't 'wobble' the drum is still playable. Otherwise it is a major repair.



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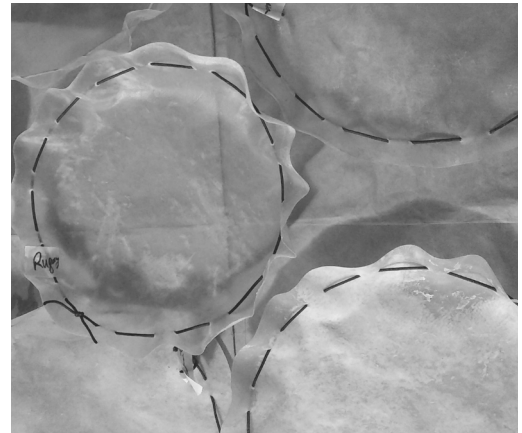
## INFO & RESOURCES

If you're new to this style of drum, the following references may be useful. This section has been compiled from my own journey as a drummer and drum-maker and is intended to help individuals find their own way with this instrument.

Please respect the efforts and privacy of these sources and don't republish or distribute for commercial purposes or without consulting me, thank you & happy drumming!

## LEARN, LISTEN & READ

- [Raquy Danziger](#)
- [Rami ElAasser](#)
- [MidEast Music Camp](#), Mendocino
- [Amel Tafout](#) Algerian Dancer & Frame Drummer
- [Alessandra Belloni](#) Italian-Style Frame Drummer, Author
- Facebook group ["Darbuka Lovers"](#)
- [Fingers of Fury](#) & Matt Stonehouse
- [Asheville Rhythm Fest](#)
- Music of [AlSarah & The Nubatones](#)
- Music of [Glen Velez](#), Frame Drummer
- [Raquy DrumStore](#) for lamps, bags & instructional books
- ["When the Drummers Were Women"](#) by Layne Redmond
- [Turkish Style](#) drumming of Misirli Ahmet
- [Egyptian Style](#) drumming of Saïid ElArtist



## DRUM NAMES & ORIGINS

- The ceramic goblet drum is traditional to the Middle East, North Africa & Eastern Europe. It is characterized by a bowl-shaped top on a flared, conical tail.
- May be called by variety of names, which can indicate specific origin, size, style or shape of design: Darbuka, Darbooka, Egyptian Tabla, Doholla, Sombati, Dumbek, Doumbek, Derbacki, Tarabuka, Darabuka,



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