



Maintenance and care of the instrument

The shells made by Alipio's Drums are entirely created one by one, using rigorously handcrafting methods.

Beginning with the choice of wood (essence, cut, seasoning), up to the joining of each single stave and then to the finishing phase, each operation is performed by craftsmen with many years of experience in the lute making field.

The materials used (wood, glues, varnishes) are all selected to give maximum value to the instrument's sound; and, precisely because each snaredrum is envisioned as a precious musical instrument and not as a mass production object, it needs some care to keep it intact the longest possible.

* The woods are carefully selected according to the arrangement found from the veining to the seasoning, but wood is a "living" material. As such, it is subject to continuous movements and deformations depending on the conditions of humidity and temperature. Precisely because plywood is not used and the grain is arranged in such a way to maximize the value of sound above all else, it is necessary to prevent -where possible- unexpected jolts, or exposure as for example to rainwater, or to spot lights too close; it is a good idea to always transport the snaredrum in an adequate case and prevent violent strikes to the structure.

* The glue used is aliphatic resin based: we believe this to be the best compromise between resistance and sound capacities. This glue has some excellent characteristics of resistance; yet, it has a minimum sensibility to extreme temperature (too hot or too cold) and to excessive humidity, which ought to be avoided, if possible.

* Finishing is carried out by using varnishes that are completely ecological, resin based and natural waxes. An attempt has been made to reduce most the impact of varnishing in order to let the instrument be as free as possible to vibrate by ensuring, at the same time, a natural look of the shell's wood. In order to ensure long life to the instrument (and also guarantee the protection provided by the finish), it will be sufficient but also recommended to clean it periodically with a soft cloth. If necessary, apply an extremely light coat of cooked linseed oil or natural wax, wait a few minutes and remove the excess oil or wax. Always polish using a soft cloth (wool cloth, if possible). This is a simple and quick operation that anyone can perform, if the heads need to be replaced; in this case, we strongly suggest avoiding excessive pressure on the shell.

N.B.: except for very short periods, it is recommended that the snaredrum never be left without heads or with the heads that are not stretched: this would cause the shell to run the risk of becoming deformed; even stretching ensured by the heads is the best way to keep the shell's staves in efficient conditions. If you are anticipating not using the snaredrum for long periods, it will be best to simply reduce the stretching, while trying to keep it even between the head at top and at bottom.