



# WELCOME TO YOUR NEW DRUM

Your new drum has been crafted by Nicholas Wood with the finest of materials and with the greatest care and attention to detail .

It is ready for you to use and with care it should last you a lifetime. This information sheet is designed to help you care for it.

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## PHYSICAL CARE FOR YOUR DRUM

Rawhide is made soft by soaking it in water and this has been part of the process that your drum has gone through. Rawhide expands when it is damp, and in damp and cold conditions your drum skin will expand a little and become looser. This will make the sound of your drum change.

This will tend to happen a little more if you have a thick skinned drum such as one made with Reindeer or goat.

If this happens too much, your drum will not sound well and will need to be dried out.

Do this by placing the drum in a warm **but not hot** place. The skin will dry out and shrink, and the drum will regain its voice once again. Some people use hair dryers for this.

To help it avoid getting damp, it is possible to rub *dubbin* into the skin. Dubbin is sold to waterproof walking boots and other leather. It is a natural animal product and will not harm the drum at all. It will however change the look of the skin, giving it a slightly honey colour and a slightly greasy feel. Dubbin is available from good shoeshops or outdoor activity shops.

It is advisable to rub a little on to a part of the skin at the back of the drum as a test before you apply it to the whole skin. In this way you can see if you like the way it looks.



## THE SPIRIT OF YOUR DRUM

The skin of your drum is made of *rawhide*. This is the skin of the animal that has not been tanned and turned into leather, hence it's name raw - hide.

As it is from a living animal, each skin is different. The way it has combined with the wooden frame of your drum is also unique. Sometimes in the drying of the drum, the skin pulls the hoop a little, causing the drum to be either not completely flat or round. This makes no difference to it's sound and makes your drum unlike any other.

The leather on your drum stick and the back of your drum is buckskin. This is the tanned skin of a deer.

Your drum was made with prayers of thanks for the animal people, and also the tree people, Deer and Mineral people who are all included in it's construction.



## PAINTING YOUR DRUM

If you have an unpainted drum and you wish to paint it, it is best you read these notes. A small extra bit of skin is included so you can get used to painting upon it.

Before any paint is applied to the drum skin it will need to be cleaned. If you have put dubbin on your drum, it is essential to remove it or the paint will not adhere to the skin.

If you wish dubbin can be re-applied when the paint is quite dry. To do this you can wipe the skin with a soft cloth soaked in white spirit or real Turpentine.

I paint drums with Artists quality Oil colour, available from good art shops. It is important to realise that oil paint can take several weeks to dry unless special drying agents are mixed with it as you use it. I recommend *Liquin* a product produced by Windsor and Newton.

It is possible to use other paint types such as acrylics, artists inks or even water colours. Visit your local art shop and talk to the owner regarding the different properties each type of paint has. One tip is always to buy the best you can. Artists quality is far better than Students quality.

It is always best to apply thin coats, and over paint if the dry paint is patchy. Workout your design on paper first, remember that oil paint can not be washed off once it is dry (even water colour pigment may well stain the skin).

Most of all take your time and enjoy it. If you have specific questions feel free to phone the number overleaf and I will try to answer them.