

BEST PRACTICES PERCUSSION

SNARE

- Use the **Evans System Blue top head** co-developed by The Blue Devils. This provides a softer feel on the hands, without losing projection or tone. Players love the feel of this head.
- Use the **Evans MX5** for the bottom head and cut out the reinforcement ring so the head rings continuously in the shell. This head is amazing. It holds the pitch and can be tightened sufficiently to produce an excellent snare response.
- Tune the bottom head to a B.
- Tune the top head higher than the bottom head while maintaining a soft feel.
- Tune all 14 strings to the same tension before every show. Lower the four middle guts a half step, and adjust the tension on the strainer to obtain the desired sound from 10 feet away.
- Use a scoop to help project a distinctive snare sound.

BASS

- Use **Evans MX1 heads**.
- The internal muffling system that comes with the heads is perfect.

Tuning intervals, muffling* & details:

18"	A	use all supplied	
20"	F#	use all supplied	
24"	D	use all supplied	
26"	A (octave below 18")	use all supplied +2	2+ pieces per head: looking straight at the head, extras go on left/right side of head, not top/bottom or diagonal
30"	D (octave below 24")	use all supplied +4	4+ pieces per head: looking straight at the head, extras go on diagonal quadrants, not top/bottom or left/right

- For a wider interval, tune Bass 1 to G \flat and Bass 2 to B \flat (high tension)

* tuck muffling all the way into crease between muffling collar and head to ensure muffling is engaged at the highest area of tension. Pinch in place, THEN apply adhesive strips

TENOR

- Use **Evans System Blue heads**: 6", 8", 10", 12", 13", 14"

Tuning intervals:

6"	no specific pitch
8"	pitch
10"	G
12"	E
13"	D
14"	C

GENERAL

- Wax all bearing edges with a piece of candle wax every time a head is changed.
- Lube all tension rods with some oil or vaseline every time a head is changed.

