RockJam 100301

RockJam 7" and 8" Bongo Drum Set Instruction Manual

MODEL: 100301

1. Introduction

This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, and maintenance of your RockJam 7" and 8" Bongo Drum Set. Designed for both beginners and experienced musicians, this bongo set features high-quality wooden shells and caprine skin heads, offering a versatile and rich percussive experience. Please read these instructions carefully to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your instrument.

Image 1: The RockJam 7" and 8" Bongo Drum Set, including the padded carry bag and tuning key.

2. Product Components

Your RockJam Bongo Drum Set package includes the following items:

- One (1) Bongo Drum Set (7-inch and 8-inch drums connected)
- One (1) Padded Bongo Case
- One (1) Tuning Tool

Image 2: The bongo drum set securely stored within its padded carry bag.

3. Setup

3.1 Initial Inspection

Upon unpacking, carefully inspect your bongo drum set for any signs of damage. Ensure all components, including the drums, padded case, and tuning tool, are present and in good condition. The drums are crafted from wood and feature caprine skin heads, which may have natural variations.

3.2 Tuning Your Bongos

Your bongos may require tuning to achieve the desired sound. The included tuning tool is essential for this process. Proper tuning enhances the instrument's sound quality and playability. The larger drum is typically referred to as the *hembra*, and the smaller drum as the *macho*.

Image 3: Close-up view of a bongo drum head, showing the tension hooks and rim.

1. **Positioning:** Place the bongos head-side down on a soft surface, such as your lap, to access the tuning bolts.

2. **Initial Loosening:** Use the included tuning wrench to slightly loosen all the bolts around each drum. Turn them in quarter or half turns per bolt, moving in a circular pattern. This prevents uneven tension and potential damage to the drum heads. Loosen until they can be turned by hand.

3. **Hand Tightening:** Once loose, hand-tighten each bolt until it is snug but not overly tight. At this point, the drum heads might produce a dull sound.

4. **First Pass Tightening:** Tighten all bolts around each drum by one full turn using the wrench. Continue to move in a circular pattern to ensure even tension. You should start to hear a more characteristic bongo tone.

5. **Tuning the Hembra (Larger Drum):** Gradually tune the larger drum (hembra) by making small, quarter-turn adjustments to the bolts. After each pass around the drum, turn it over and tap the head to check the tone. Aim for a tone between middle C and the E above it, adjusting to your preference.

6. **Tuning the Macho (Smaller Drum):** The smaller drum (macho) typically has a higher, snappier pitch. Continue with quarter-turn adjustments, checking the tone frequently. A common range for the macho is between E above middle C and the A just above that.

7. **Fine Adjustment:** For final adjustments, hold the drums upright. Lightly place your thumb in the

center of a drum head and strike near the tension hooks. Listen for any ringing overtones. Adjust individual tension hooks slightly to balance these overtones across the drum head. Repeat for the second drum.

4. Operating Instructions

Bongos are played by striking the drum heads with your hands. Different sounds can be produced by varying the striking area and hand shape:

- **Open Tone:** Strike the edge of the drum head with the palm of your hand, allowing your fingers to rebound freely. This produces a full, resonant sound.
- **Slap:** Strike the center of the drum head with a cupped hand, creating a sharp, piercing sound.
- **Bass Tone:** Strike the center of the drum head with a flat hand for a deeper, muffled sound.
- **Muting:** Place one hand on the drum head to mute it while striking with the other hand to create varied rhythmic patterns.

Experiment with different hand positions and techniques to discover the wide range of sounds your RockJam bongos can produce.

5. Maintenance

5.1 Cleaning

To maintain the appearance and sound quality of your bongos:

- Wipe the wooden shells with a soft, dry cloth. Avoid abrasive cleaners or excessive moisture.
- The caprine skin heads can be gently wiped with a slightly damp cloth if necessary, but ensure they are thoroughly dried afterward. Avoid prolonged exposure to moisture.
- Clean the metal hardware with a dry cloth to prevent tarnishing.

5.2 Storage

Store your bongo drum set in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight, extreme temperatures, and humidity fluctuations. The included padded carry case provides excellent protection against dust, scratches, and minor impacts during storage and transport. Always ensure the drums are placed securely within the case before zipping it closed.

6. Troubleshooting

If you encounter issues with your bongo drum set, consider the following:

- **Dull Sound:** If the drums produce a dull or lifeless sound, they likely need tuning. Refer to Section 3.2 for detailed tuning instructions. Ensure all tension bolts are evenly tightened.
- **Uneven Tone:** An uneven tone across the drum head can be resolved by fine-tuning individual tension hooks as described in Section 3.2.
- **Loose Hardware:** Periodically check all nuts and bolts to ensure they are secure. Tighten gently with the tuning wrench if necessary, being careful not to overtighten.
- **Skin Damage:** Avoid striking the drum heads with sharp objects or excessive force, as this can cause damage to the caprine skins.

7. Specifications

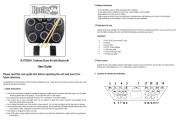| Feature	Detail
Brand	RockJam
Model Number	100301
Set Name	7" and 8" Bongo Drum Set
Body Material	Wood
Head Material	Caprine Skin
Finish Type	Lacquered
Color	Red & Natural
Size	Full-Size (7-inch and 8-inch drums)
Item Weight	5.29 Pounds
Product Dimensions (L x W x H)	15.34 x 7.08 x 7.08 inches
Included Components	Bongo Drum Set, Padded Bongo Case, Tuning Tool

8. Warranty and Support

RockJam products are manufactured to high-quality standards. For information regarding warranty coverage, product support, or to address any concerns not covered in this manual, please refer to the warranty card included with your purchase or visit the official RockJam website for contact details.

Related Documents - 100301

RockJam Tastiera multifunzione RJ660 con 61 tasti Guida per l'utente	[RockJam RJ660 61-Key Multifunction Keyboard User Guide](#) Comprehensive user guide for the RockJam RJ660 61-key multifunction keyboard, covering setup, operation, features like tones, rhythms, recording, and learning modes.
RockJam RJ660 61 key Multi-function Keyboard User Guide	[RockJam RJ660 61-Key Multi-Function Keyboard User Guide](#) Comprehensive user guide for the RockJam RJ660 61-key multi-function keyboard. Learn about its features, controls, operation, and troubleshooting. Includes tone and rhythm lists, and technical specifications.

RockJam RJ361 61 key Multi-function Keyboard User Guide	**[ROCKJAM RJ361 61-Key Multi-function Keyboard User Guide](#)** Explore the features and functionalities of the ROCKJAM RJ361 61-key Multi-function Keyboard with this comprehensive user guide. Learn about setup, operation, tones, rhythms, teaching modes, and troubleshooting for your musical instrument.
RockJam RJ-561 Multi-function Keyboard User Guide	**[RockJam RJ-561 Multi-function Keyboard User Manual and Guide](#)** Comprehensive user guide for the RockJam RJ-561 Multi-function Keyboard, covering setup, basic operation, advanced features like recording and teaching modes, troubleshooting, and technical specifications.
RockJam RJ5061 61 key Multi-function Keyboard User Guide	**[RockJam RJ5061 61-Key Multi-Function Electronic Keyboard User Guide](#)** Comprehensive user guide for the RockJam RJ5061 61-key multi-function electronic keyboard, covering setup, operation, features like tone, rhythm, chords, recording, teaching modes, and troubleshooting. Includes technical specifications and disposal information.
	[RockJam RJTTED01 Tabletop Drum Kit with Bluetooth User Guide](#) Comprehensive user guide for the RockJam RJTTED01 Tabletop Drum Kit, detailing setup, operation, features like Bluetooth and MIDI connectivity, troubleshooting, and specifications.