

## DW PSS6514GSd1

# DW Performance Series Snare Drum - 6.5 x 14 inch - Gold Sparkle FinishPly User Manual

Model: PSS6514GSd1

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Thank you for choosing the DW Performance Series Snare Drum. This manual provides essential information for the proper setup, operation, maintenance, and care of your new instrument. Please read these instructions carefully to ensure optimal performance and longevity of your snare drum.

## 2. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The DW Performance Series Snare Drum is a high-quality instrument designed for drummers seeking professional sound and reliability. This 6.5 x 14 inch model features a maple shell and a distinctive Gold Sparkle FinishPly.

### Key Features:

- 6.5" x 14" Maple Snare Drum
- 3.0mm Triple-flanged Hoops
- Gold Sparkle FinishPly
- 10-ply HVX maple shell for crisp, sensitive, and cutting sound
- Low-profile Quarter Turret lugs

### Components Included:

- DW Performance Series Snare Drum (6.5 x 14 inch)

### Visual Identification:



Figure 2.1: Front view of the DW Performance Series Snare Drum, showcasing the Gold Sparkle FinishPly and chrome hardware.



Figure 2.2: Top view of the snare drum, showing the batter head with the DW logo and tension rod numbering.



Figure 2.3: Bottom view of the snare drum, illustrating the resonant head and the snare wires attached to the throw-off and butt plate mechanisms.





Figure 2.4: Side view of the snare drum, highlighting the MAG throw-off mechanism for engaging and disengaging the snare wires.



Figure 2.5: Close-up view of the snare butt plate, where the snare wires are secured on the opposite side of the throw-off.

### 3. SETUP

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### 3.1 Unboxing and Inspection

Carefully remove the snare drum from its packaging. Inspect the drum for any signs of damage that may have occurred during shipping. Ensure all components are present and securely attached.

### 3.2 Initial Tuning

Proper tuning is crucial for optimal sound. The snare drum comes with factory-installed heads, but fine-tuning is recommended upon receipt.

1. **Batter Head (Top Head):** Gradually tighten the tension rods in a star pattern, turning each rod a quarter to half turn at a time. Tap near each rod to ensure even tension. Aim for a desired pitch and resonance.
2. **Resonant Head (Bottom Head):** The resonant head is typically tuned higher than the batter head. Follow the same star pattern tightening method. The tension of this head significantly impacts the snare response and overall sustain.

### 3.3 Snare Wire Adjustment

The snare wires are attached to the throw-off mechanism and the butt plate. Adjusting the tension of the snare wires affects the sensitivity and "buzz" of the snare drum.

1. **Engage the Throw-Off:** Ensure the throw-off lever is in the "on" (engaged) position, pressing the snare wires against the resonant head.
2. **Adjust Tension:** Use the tension knob on the throw-off mechanism to increase or decrease the pressure of the snare wires against the resonant head.
  - *Tighter tension:* Reduces buzz, provides a crisper, drier sound.
  - *Looser tension:* Increases buzz, provides a more "wet" or "sizzly" sound.
3. **Test:** Strike the batter head gently and adjust until the desired snare response is achieved without excessive sympathetic buzzing.

## 4. OPERATING

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### 4.1 Playing Techniques

The DW Performance Series Snare Drum is versatile and responds well to various playing styles. Experiment with different stick types, striking positions (center, edge, rimshot), and dynamics to explore its full sonic capabilities.

### 4.2 Adjusting the MAG Throw-Off

The MAG throw-off allows for quick engagement and disengagement of the snare wires. To engage the snares, push the lever down. To disengage, lift the lever up. This feature is useful for achieving different sounds or for quick changes during performance.



Figure 4.1: Detailed view of the MAG throw-off, showing the lever and tension adjustment knob.

## 5. MAINTENANCE

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### 5.1 Cleaning

- **Shell:** Wipe the Gold Sparkle FinishPly shell with a soft, dry, lint-free cloth. For stubborn marks, a slightly damp cloth followed by a dry polish can be used. Avoid abrasive cleaners.
- **Hardware:** Chrome hardware can be cleaned with a soft cloth. For fingerprints or smudges, a small amount of chrome polish designed for musical instruments can be used sparingly.
- **Drum Heads:** Drum heads can be wiped with a damp cloth to remove stick marks and dust.

### 5.2 Head Replacement

Drum heads wear out over time and should be replaced to maintain optimal sound. When replacing heads:

1. Loosen all tension rods evenly until the old head can be removed.
2. Place the new head onto the drum shell, ensuring it is centered.
3. Place the hoop over the head and insert all tension rods.
4. Finger-tighten all tension rods, then gradually tighten them in a star pattern, making small turns until the head is seated and begins to produce a tone.
5. Fine-tune the head to your desired pitch and evenness.

### 5.3 Snare Wire Replacement

If snare wires become bent, broken, or lose their responsiveness, they should be replaced. Ensure you purchase snare wires appropriate for a 14-inch snare drum.

1. Disengage the throw-off and loosen the straps/cords holding the snare wires to the throw-off and butt plate.
2. Remove the old snare wires.
3. Attach the new snare wires to the throw-off and butt plate using the provided straps or cords, ensuring they are centered on the resonant head.
4. Engage the throw-off and adjust the tension as described in Section 3.3.

## 6. TROUBLESHOOTING

### 6.1 Common Issues and Solutions

- **Excessive Snare Buzz:**
  - Check snare wire tension (tighten slightly).
  - Ensure resonant head is tuned evenly and sufficiently tight.
  - Verify snare wires are centered and flat against the head.
  - Check for loose hardware on the drum or surrounding drums/stands.
- **Lack of Snare Response:**
  - Ensure throw-off is engaged.
  - Loosen snare wire tension slightly.
  - Check if snare wires are damaged or bent.
  - Ensure resonant head is not too loose.
- **Uneven Tone/Rattling:**
  - Check for even tension across all tension rods on both heads.
  - Inspect hardware for any loose screws or components.
  - Ensure drum heads are properly seated.

## 7. SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Model Name	PSS6514GSd1
Dimensions (L x W x H)	14 x 14 x 6.5 inches
Item Weight	14.88 pounds
Shell Material	Maple Wood (10-ply HVX)
Finish Type	Gold Sparkle FinishPly
Hoops	3.0mm Triple-flanged Steel
Lugs	Low-profile Quarter Turret
Throw-Off	MAG Throw-Off
Manufacturer	DW

Feature	Detail
ASIN	B07BPR5697

## 8. WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

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For detailed warranty information and customer support, please refer to the official DW Drums website or contact your authorized DW dealer. Keep your proof of purchase for any warranty claims.

**Manufacturer:** DW (Drum Workshop)

**Website:** [www.dwdrums.com](http://www.dwdrums.com)