

Important Advice for Instrument Care, Repairs and Replacements

Care

All lacquered wood or metal can be treated with any kind of furniture polish without silicon. Surfaces of nickel or chrome, (glockenspiel bars, table and stand legs, tension bars, cymbals), are best protected with a resin-free refined oil or chrome polish. The threads of screws for skin instruments should be lightly oiled from time to time not only for protection but also to ease the task of tightening and loosening skins.

Take special care when storing instruments! **Drums** especially can be damaged by high humidity, e.g., in cellars, and also by heat generated from radiators. When storing frame drums and tambourines for any length of time, all the thumbscrews should be turned equally about 1/4 turn to loosen the tension thus protecting both head and frame.

Rotating cylindrical drums and kettle drums, however, should be loosened to a pitch somewhere in the middle range. The tuning mechanism should be in a horizontal position.

The resonance boxes of xylophones and metallophones should not be used as storage receptacles for the bars. This may lead to loosening the floor of the box. The following points must be made about the pitch of barred instruments: Metallophones and glockenspiels do not vary. Xylophones may eventually be affected by pitch changes if proper care has not been taken, (see above), or if they have been played constantly with hard mallets. We will, of course, as the manufacturer, correct the intonation when necessary in the shortest time possible.

Repairs

In spite of good care, some instrument parts deteriorate naturally, e.g., rubber tubing, laces and leather straps. Here are a few tips for making temporary repairs while awaiting delivery of replacement parts:

Barred instruments: Broken rubber that supports the bars can be temporarily replaced with cord or soft string. Laminated resonance box handles of wood or synthetic material which have come loose can be refastened with contact cement or epoxy. (European brands are Pattex, Stabilit Express or UHU with extra fast bonding).

Small instruments: A torn triangle loop or castanet string can be replaced with strong nylon thread. Sleigh bells which have come undone can be refastened to the band with thin string or wire. Cymbal straps can be repaired simply with a knotted piece of rope.

Frame drums and tympani: Remove natural skin head which has become uneven in sound. Soak it in warm water until it is soft and smooth and then attach it evenly again. If a rotating cylindrical drum or kettle drum can no longer be tuned to its lower register, treat it as above. Before re-mounting the skin, be sure to turn the drum as far as necessary so that the tuning mechanism is in a horizontal position. Then mount the skin and set the screws in place. Tighten to a point where the pressure ring is about 5 mm under the head. After the head has dried, the timpani can be fine-tuned again. Strike the head about a hand's width from the edge of the rim. (See above under playing technique).

Ordering spare parts

You can find all spare parts from 1949 models onwards listed on our website. Our Repair Information Systems supports you to find the right spare part.