

SoundPure



HOW TO PACK A DRUM SET

How to Pack a Drum Set!

Estimated Time: 1 Hour

Congrats! We are going to make the “daunting” task of packing your set safe and easy.

Don't let the challenge of packing your set prevent you from taking the next steps with your drum desires, whether it be an upgrade, outright sale, or swap.

This simple guide is designed as a companion to our Sound Pure drum packing kits, which can be purchased directly from us. This guide may also be used if you are a DIYer or already have the necessary shipping supplies.

If you have purchased a Sound Pure kit (or are interested in purchasing a kit or talking trade-in, trade-up, or consignment), a Sound Pure expert is here to answer any questions. No question is dumb, we want you to get this right! **Call us toll free: 888-528-9703.**

Overview

One of the keys to packing a drum set is efficiently managing your box space through “nesting.” By packing or “nesting” smaller drums inside of larger drums, we can reduce the total amount of packages, drastically reducing total shipping costs. It is also safer, when this guide is followed carefully, because there are fewer voids, meaning less movement and risk from drops or bumps.

By lining the inside of your drums with cardboard and paper, you will protect both the inside and outside of your shells during transport. Usage of bubble wrap is recommended (and included in the SP packing kit) for wrapping the outside of the drums, which also aids in protecting the hardware and shells. The idea is to eliminate or at least minimize any movement of drums inside the box. To the extent the boxes take a hit, there should be appropriate protection around the most fragile components and finishes (wood). Keep in mind *it is not possible to succeed in an insurance claim with the shipper unless the packing is up to the high standards of FedEx and UPS, since they want to cover the mishandling of packages on their end. Please follow this guide closely and don't take shortcuts!*

Supplies Required: Packing Materials

Start with a strong box. UPS and FedEx recommend a box with 2 or more inches of space (on all sides) wider than the diameter of the drum you are shipping, filled with padding and protection. So, typically, we add 4” to the largest-dimensioned drum you are trying to ship. This allows for the required padding to protect your drums during shipping. E.g.: Some 3-piece sets with a 22” bass drum will fit entirely in a single 26” cube box (that is 22” + 2” + 2”).

See Sizing Chart for size and quantity of box(es) required for various sizes of sets.

In addition to the right-sized boxes and bubble wrap (both of which are supplied in the Sound Pure packing kit), customer/packer must supply or acquire from Sound Pure the following household/drum items:



1. **Scrap Paper for Padding (some is included with SP packing kit):** We recommend the heavy brown paper (Kraft paper) found at UPS and FedEx stores. This can also be found at Walmart or office supply stores. Newspaper can also be used, but you will need quite a bit to complete this task (pack it tight). Newspaper is very helpful to fill voids.
2. **Cardboard Scrap (customer supplied):** Scrap pieces can be cut to wrap around the outside of drums and line the inside of drum shells. You will never regret creating double or triple wall protection, though it may take a little more time.
3. **Packing Tape (purchase as part of kit, or may be customer supplied):** Use packing tape or strapping tape (do NOT use Scotch tape, masking tape, or duct tape).
4. **Utility Knife (purchase as part of kit, or may be customer supplied)**
5. **Drum Key or Drum Drill Bit (purchase as part of kit, or may be customer supplied)**
6. **Bass Drum Head Box (if you've got one handy, or scrap cardboard may be used)**

Don't have the time or resources to get the right materials?

We've got you covered!

Sound Pure offers a variety of packing solutions to help you get your drum set shipped safely. From the most basic of drum sets to the elaborate and complex, our boxing solutions are an all-in-one easy solution to get you the right materials. Having trouble deciding what package is best for you? Call us toll free at **888-528-9703** and we'll be happy to help you find the right solution.

Step 1: Strip the Hardware

Remove floor tom legs and tom holders and place these items to the side. These items will be packed towards the end of the process.



BEFORE



AFTER

Step 2: Pack the Bass Drum - w/ Hoops Removed



Remove both bass drum hoops and bass drum heads. Move the bass drum heads and the bass drum claws with the tensions rods to the side. You can store the claws and tension rods in a pair of Ziploc bags, and/or wrap them in newspaper secured by packing tape. These will need to be padded so they don't move around during shipping and scratch/damage the shells. They will be added to the center of the floor tom in step 6. Place the bass drum heads in a spare drum head box (if you have one), as this will be used in step 9 and save a bit of time.

Wrap your bass drum hoops with bubble wrap and slide them onto the bass drum shell. This is the open end of the shell: the rings that hold the bass drum head to the shell. You will be leaving your bass drum "hollow" inside because we will be filling this void with your toms in later steps.



Step 3: Wrap Bass Drum, Floor Tom, & Rack Tom(s)

Next, wrap your bass drum and floor tom with bubble wrap. Two times around the diameter of the drum should be enough.

Your bass drum should look like this:



Your toms should look like this:



After you finish with the bubble wrap, use scrap cardboard to cover the outside of the floor tom, making sure to tape it well so that the cardboard does not separate from the drum and expose hardware that can potentially damage the inside of the drum shells.



You don't need to remove hardware from your smallest rack tom, as it will be nested inside the larger drums. with hardware placed on top of it inside the shipping box.

REPEAT STEP 3 for each component drum in your kit (except your snare drum), including the rack tom(s).

Step 4: Pack the Bass Drum into Its Box

Assemble bass drum box and place a layer of packing paper or bubble wrap as a padding layer on the bottom of the box and then lay a thin layer of cardboard over the top of the padding layer. This will help keep the box sturdy, as well as buffer the contents.



Reinforce each interior wall of the box with a couple of pieces of cut scrap cardboard to stabilize the box, protect the bass drum, and minimize any potential puncture spots.



After that, place the bass drum shell inside the box with the open side facing the bottom of the box, and line the inside of the shell with a layer of cardboard (see picture in step 5).



Step 5: Add the Floor Tom & Rack Tom to Your Bass Drum Box (inside the Bass Drum Itself)

Next, insert the wrapped floor tom into the bass drum shell and use packing paper around the floor tom, making sure that there is no space for the drum to move around. Remove one head from your floor tom and insert your wrapped rack tom.



For larger sets, rack toms can be nested inside of floor toms. In most instances, a 12" rack tom can nest inside of a 16" floor, and a 10" tom can nest inside of a 14" floor tom. Use processes similar to step 3 to pack and secure your drums.

One thing to consider as you are packing is weight. The heavier the box, the more difficult it is to transport. While it would be nice to fit everything in one box, if you cannot move the package easily, that probably means the same for your shipping company.

Step 6: Protect and Pack Smaller Hardware

Wrap tension rods in bubble wrap (can be secured in newspaper/tape in a Ziploc bag), then place inside floor tom prior to closing tom head for secure shipping. It is important these be tightly packed, removing any air space. You do NOT want them moving around in transit!



Below, see hardware sitting on top of smallest rack top:



Step 7: Pack All Voids (and Add Floor Tom Legs)

Next, fill all space inside the floor tom with packing paper or newspaper and reinstall your floor tom head. Tighten finger tight - this will keep the rack tom and claws contained for shipping. Fill all the available space in the box with packing paper or newspaper in between so that nothing can move around.



Depending on the overall height or diameter of your drums, you may be able to use the space left at the top of the box to place your floor tom legs (from Step 1), making sure to pad so that this does not damage the drums. If in doubt, pack the hardware in a separate box, as it is better to be safe than sorry.



Step 8: Add the Bass Drum Heads

Lay the bass drum heads over the bass drum shell. If you have an extra bass drum head box (or other layer of cardboard scrap to protect the heads), place both heads inside that box.



Step 9: Cut Down Excessive Height (Leaving 1" to 2" for Top Padding)

If there is any excess height on the box after packing everything, you can use the bass drum head box as a straightedge to score the edges of the box and reduce the height.

Lightly score the box making sure to not cut all the way through the box wall. Once you have scored all four sides, insert the blade into the corner of the box with the blade facing upwards and cut all four corners so that you can fold the box walls over the drums. This will ensure that your package is appropriately and tightly sized for everything in the box, eliminating voids at top.



Step 10: Close & Tape Up the Box

Shake Test - Is It Safe for Shipping?

Before you close the box, give the box a good shake and make sure that nothing is moving around. Sharp edges moving in your box are not a good thing, so you want to pad the edges and pack tightly to minimize movement inside the box. After everything has been secured and made snug, you can move on to sealing the box.

When sealing the box, make sure that you hit all sides and be liberal with the tape. The last thing you want is for the box to open up in transit. Once that's done you can apply your label and ship it out!



Step 11: Ready for Shipping

Shipping Methods: If your package is part of a Sound Pure trade-in, trade-up, or consignment, we will provide you the labels and arrange to have the box picked up.

Here at Sound Pure, we use UPS as our shipping provider. They have several locations that can receive and help you get your packages to the end destination. They provide tracking information as well as offer optional insurance for your packages. FedEx is another viable option for many, also with several locations. They offer similar options to UPS. USPS can handle smaller packages like rack toms, snares, and cymbals, but they have put some size restrictions on what they will pick up and deliver, which usually excludes many of the common bass drum sizes.

Sizing Chart

Drum Set Sizes	Minimum Required Size Boxes	Sound Pure Packing Kit *
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3-Piece Drum Sets		
10" TT, 14" FT, 18" BD	24"x24"x24"	SPD1
10" TT, 14" FT, 20" BD	24"x24"x24"	SPD1
12" TT, 16" FT, 22" BD	26"x26"x26"	SPD2

12" TT, 14" FT, 18" BD**	24"x24"x24" & 18"x18"x18"	SPD3
12" TT, 14" FT, 20" BD**	24"x24"x24" & 18"x18"x18"	SPD3
12" TT, 16" FT, 20" BD**	24"x24"x24" & 20"x20"x20"	SPD4
13" TT, 16" FT, 20" BD**	24"x24"x24" & 20"x20"x20"	SPD4
13" TT, 16" FT, 22" BD**	26"x26"x26" & 16"x16"x16"	SPD5
13" TT, 16" FT, 24" BD**	28"x28"x28" & 16"x16"x16"	SPD6

4-Piece Drum Sets		
10" TT, 12" TT, 16" FT, 20" BD	24"x24"x24" & 20"x20"x20"	SPD4
12" TT, 13" TT, 16" FT, 22" BD	26"x26"x26" & 16"x16"x16"	SPD5

5-Piece Drum Sets		
10" TT, 12" TT, 14" FT, 16" FT, 18" BD	24"x24"x24" & 20"x20"x20"	SPD4+SPD16
10" TT, 12" TT, 14" FT, 16" FT, 20" BD	24"x24"x24" & 20"x20"x20"	SPD4+SPD16
10" TT, 12" TT, 14" FT, 16" FT, 22" BD	26"x26"x26" & 20"x20"x20"	SPD7+SPD16
10" TT, 12" TT, 14" FT, 16" FT, 24" BD	28"x28"x28" & 20"x20"x20"	SPD8+SPD16

6-Piece Drum Sets		
8" TT, 10" TT, 12" TT, 14" FT, 16" FT, 20" BD	24"x24"x24" & 20"x20"x20"	SPD4+SPD16
8" TT, 10" TT, 12" TT, 14" FT, 16" FT, 22" BD	26"x26"x26" & 20"x20"x20"	SPD7+SPD16
8" TT, 10" TT, 12" TT, 14" FT, 16" FT, 24" BD	28"x28"x28" & 20"x20"x20"	SPD8+SPD16

* Contact us at (888) 528-9703 for 26" (and up) bass drum packaging requirements.