


majestic

Timpani MD. Harmonic



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MAJESTIC TIMPANI

GENERAL INFORMATIONS AND TIPS

- When setting up the timpani, begin by placing it on the ground on its four rubber feet (photo 1). The front legs can then be folded out and screwed into position using the star knobs on the side (photo 2). With the brakes applied on the front wheels, lift up the pedal side of the timpani (photo 3) and loosen the levers on both sides of the rear leg. Then move the rear leg with the pedal down and retighten both levers.
- After setting up the timpani, move the pedal up and down a few times to check whether the head(s) tension is correct. (See **B**).
- When the timpani are not being used, the head(s) should always be loosened to ensure maximum life. (Front of the pedal pointing upward). (NB: When the legs are collapsed, the head(s) is automatically loosened).
- Always put a cover over the timpani when they are not being used.
- In light of the timbre and action of a timpani, we recommend that you renew the head(s) once a year (for correct size, see table **B**).
- **WARNING:**

Never adjust the timpani before you are 100% certain that the head(s) is tensioned correctly, for factory adjustment of the mechanism is based on the correct head(s) tension.



1.



2.



3.

MOUNTING A NEW HEAD

First, a piece of wood or something similar (11 cm long by a minimum of 18 cm wide) should be put under the front of the pedal in order to block it and prevent it from being pressed down. Then the tension screws can be loosened entirely with the hexagonal spanner supplied, and the head(s) removed.

Warning: Always be very careful with the pedal when the head(s) is detached. If the piece of wood mentioned above is not well in place, the great spring tension can cause the pedal to suddenly fold down and cause injury.

Subsequently, put a new head(s) in the counter hoop (for correct size, see table **B**) and reinstall all elements. Ensure that the head(s) is centred correctly.

Bring the head(s) to approximately the right tension. Then remove the wood from under the pedal and depress the pedal completely. In light of its stretching, the timpani head(s) must be kept under tension for at least 48 hours.

Complete tensioning after 48 hours in accordance with **B**.

B

TUNING THE HEAD

First of all, the head(s) tension must be precisely adjusted. To this end, fully release the pedal (in the lowest position, front pointing upward).

Then turn the tension screws in such a way that the pitch is a fraction below the lowest note indicated in the scale (see table). This can best be checked with an electronic tuning device. Next, the head must be tuned according to the mean tone system (strike at approx. 9 cm from the counter hoop at the height of the tension screws).

In most cases, the mechanism will now be balanced again throughout the entire range.

Table B **Lettering of various scales**

	*	20"	*	23"	*	26"	*	29"	*	32"	*
	*	---	*	---	*	---	*	---	*	---	*
High	*	C	*	A	*	F	*	D	*	B	*
	*	B	*	G	*	E	*	C	*	A	*
	*	A	*	F	*	D	*	B	*	G	*
	*	G	*	E	*	C	*	A	*	F	*
	*	F	*	D	*	B	*	G	*	E	*
Low	*	E	*	C	*	A	*	F	*	D	*
Head size*		22"	*	25"	*	28"	*	31"	*	34"	*

C

THE PEDAL DOES NOT REMAIN IN THE DESIRED POSITION

First tension the head(s) precisely in accordance with B - this will in most cases fully balance the mechanism.

If the pedal remains a problem, the head(s) may need to be replaced. Old head(s) lose their elasticity (and because of this, their tone as well) and hinder proper action of the mechanism.

If the head(s) is in good condition, carefully lay the timpani on its side (not on the tuning gauge) on a blanket or padding (with the castors blocked). (Never lift or move the timpani by the counter hoop).

Tighten the nut and bolt (1) on the bottom of the timpani slightly in accordance with drawing no. 323 using two ring spanners no. 13 (not supplied) and test by hand whether the pedal now offers sufficient resistance. Adjust the bolt to ensure that the pedal can be moved evenly and quite lightly (*) but still remains in the desired position.

Attention: Do not tamper with other nuts and bolts.

*)Note: The pedal will feel much lighter with your foot than with your hand.

If a fully depressed pedal does not keep the highest note indicated in the scale (also see table B), tighten spring nut (2) slightly in accordance with drawing no. 323 (no more than a few turns).

WARNING:

If this nut is tightened too much, the pedal will no longer be able to return to the highest position and the mechanism will no longer work properly.

If it is not possible to adjust the mechanism satisfactorily, the head(s) may in fact need to be replaced. Old head(s) lose their elasticity and interfere with the proper action of the mechanism.

D

ADJUSTING THE TUNING GAUGE

First tension the head(s) precisely in accordance with B - this will in most cases fully balance the mechanism.

If the tuning gauge touches one of the struts, loosen the wing nut on the bottom of the tuning gauge and adjust the gauge so that it has some room on both sides.

Subsequently, adjust the scale lettering, if necessary using an electronic tuner.

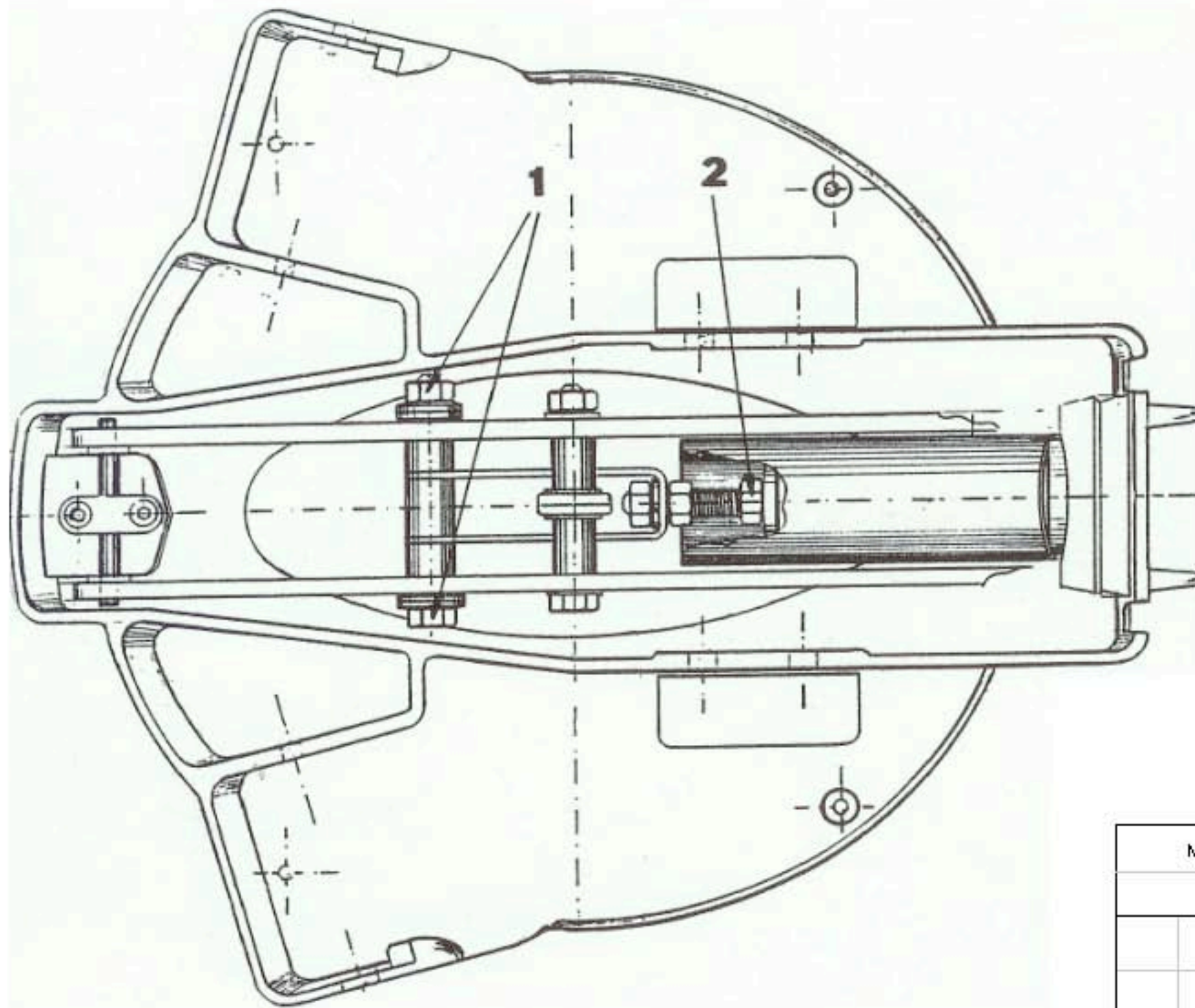
E

THE HEAD(S) SQUEAKS

Sometimes the head(s) squeaks on the sides when the pedal is depressed. This can be easily solved by considerably warming up the head(s) with a hair-dryer, but only the part of the head(s) in contact with the counter hoop. After the head(s) has cooled down, tension in accordance with B.

We always exercise the utmost care with our instruments. Should you, nevertheless, have questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact our technical department.

MAJESTIC HOLLAND B.V.
COMMUNICATIELAAN 6-8
8466 SR NIJEHASKE
T +31 513 468030
F +31 513 468031
E INFO@MAJESTIC-PERCUSSION.COM
WWW.MAJESTIC-PERCUSSION.COM



MAJESTIC HARMONIC TIMPANI			TEK.NR.
GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS			323
		SCHAAL	_____
		MAT.	_____
		22-11-1994	
		GEW.	
GET.	T. Reitsma	Heerenveen.	