

Neglect and Respect

by Nodar Rode

Hello drummers, let me introduce myself. My name is Nodar Rode and there's a chance that we already know each other from the Manhattan Drum Shop. My expertise is drums and drum sets, cymbals and hardware, percussions and everything rhythmic under the sun. I also play and teach.

My custom made "NodarRode" drum sets are owned by many drummers around the world and I have a patent for the 'quick release latch' mechanism for the 'nestable' drums (see photos). With this invention, the 'nestable' drum (fitting a drum inside of a drum) can be made without cutting the shells in half, like most companies are doing.



Nodar Rode

Of Georgian descent, Nodar Rode has been making, fixing and designing drums since 1985. Some view Nodar's Shop as a museum, but really it's just a store and workshop in one. Customers include everyone from pros to beginners, all getting equal time and attention. Services include: Nestable drums, vintage drum restoration, custom edges and snare beds, drum finishes, cymbal repairs, all kinds of alterations and repairs on drums and drum hardware and more.



I am grateful to Drumhead magazine for the chance to talk to drummers, about drummers, their gear, and the customizing of existing drums and cymbals for achieving a better sound and longer life. I have three priorities in drum making; sound, comfort and beauty. A big advantage that I have over other companies is that I can choose any part, from any brand, and use it for my drums in order to achieve these goals. Other companies just cannot afford to do the same.

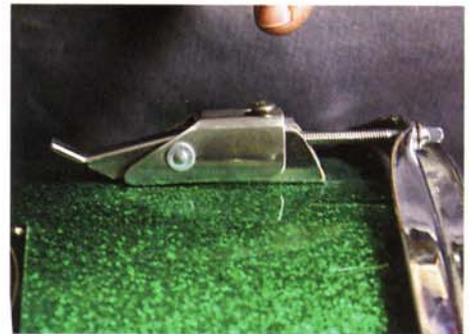
Neglect

In this first article, I would like to talk about neglect and the issues and problems that some of us drummers have from it, as well as how it can affect you and your instrument.

When I see bands loading and unloading their equipment, I witness drums being transported without any cases or protection. Why? I see guitars, basses and keyboards protected in cases, but not drums. This is neglect! You might think it's none of my business, but in actuality, it very much is just that, my business. Remember, a big part of my making a living is based on neglected gear.

Throughout my career servicing and repairing drums, I've seen things you wouldn't believe, and neglect is a very mild way of describing it. Why is it that when you know something is broken and/or about to collapse, the problem is not dealt with right away? Why does it have to be at the last minute, right before the gig? The strange and funny thing is that a lot of the guilty drummers that I'm referring to are my friends. You know who you are... so please don't be angry with me!

Of course, there are also some very responsible drummers who always take care of these issues in a timely manner, without being forced to repair in a rush, and without the required amount of time. These are musicians who really care about their playing and their gear.



ACTION - REACTION

Problem - Duct tape is used to secure cymbal stands and other hardware.

Damage - Rattling occurs when the pipes are not tight and secured properly, damaging the stand, as well as ruining the recording.

Solution - Re-drill, re-tap and re-thread for new wing bolt.

Problem - Drum heads that are changed only when they brake.

Damage - Over-tightening the head can cause extra stress on the lug casings and shell.

Solution - Drink fewer beers and buy newer heads.

Problem - Playing cracked and broken cymbals.

Damage - The sound suffers and eventually you will ruin the cymbal.

Solution - Determine what it takes to make the cymbal playable again via drilling, clamping, milling and/or riveting.

Problem - Missing tension rods on a drum.

Damage - Will cause the hoop to warp, and you will break heads prematurely.

Solution - Simply replace missing rods.



Photos Nymne Rosenkrantz



IF DRUMS COULD SCREAM FOR HELP, THEY'D BE MUCH LOUDER THAN THEY ALREADY ARE.

the foot with the stories I mentioned above. I would lose my business if every drummer would follow my instructions and consider my criticism, but fortunately there will always be drummers out there who just do not care.

This list of problems is virtually endless, and that's why I'm going to stop and go to my next issue: respect.

Respect

I believe that first impressions are always the most important. When fellow musicians see you take care of your gear, they give you credit for it. If they know you care, it means they can trust you with their music and the gig. Of course,

a nice looking kit is not going to make you a better drummer, but it is a good start at making a great impression. You can always get better as a player (with some time and a lot of work), but it's hard to erase a first impression, especially if it's a bad one. Imagine for a moment what your impression would be if a guitarist showed up for a gig with a broken tuning peg or a sax player with a broken reed. Don't forget, word of mouth is sometimes more important than a review in *The Times*.

Classical musicians hardly ever experience problems like this, simply because of the amount of respect they have for their instrument and their profession. They are very serious about music, and they don't treat it as temporary entertainment. It's very much a way of life. When you mention a violinist, trumpeter or a pianist etc., this automatically means a "musician" to most. For a lot of people, the drummer somehow does not translate to "musician" or to "respect." It's a very old stereotype which isn't easy to dispel, especially with some of our friends who often support disrespect to the art of drumming and everything else that comes with it.

What I am talking about is not an illness or a genetic disorder, and is actually quite easy to correct. It is much better to play music honorably, even if it is for fun only, and it is my wish for every drummer to be respected and accepted as a musician. Respecting your equipment and maintaining it will make it a lot easier for you to attain the same respect from your fellow musicians as they hopefully attain from you.

Ok, I think you get the point. In the issues to come, I will talk about many other problems and solutions, such as edges, snare beds, finishes, custom drums, 'nestable' drums, new and vintage drums and cymbals, repairing equipment, maintaining what you already own and much more. I will appreciate your input, so questions and opinions are welcome.

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I know a lot of you guys as well, so this dissertation is not about you.

To be more specific, let me start by listing some very basic and specific issues that I am plagued with on a daily basis and which you can take into consideration before something minor turns major.

As you can see, this could go on forever.

Just one more thing... Have you ever taken off one head of a drum and realized that you have to call

'waste management' to pick up the garbage and debris that's been hiding in there? Dirty laundry, animal food, a dead mouse and more. I've seen it all and I'm not kidding.

If drums could scream for help, they'd be much louder than they already are. Fortunately drums cannot sue their owners for negligence and harassment, or many of you would have restraining orders filed against you.

In a way, I'm shooting myself in