



# How to look after your Percussion Instrument

<b>Instruments covered in this guide:</b>	<b>Tabla Dholak</b>	<b>Djembe Dhol</b>
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We hope you are enjoying playing your new instrument. Below you will find advice on how to care for your instrument and what to do if it breaks.

Do not try to play your instrument before your first lesson, it is very fragile and could get broken.

## CARING FOR THE INSTRUMENT

- Never leave your instrument next to a radiator, in direct sunlight or in a very cold or damp place.
- Never leave your instrument in the car on hot days (even in the boot!)
- Never place your instrument with the drum head facing down, it can damage the skin.
- If your instrument has a protective case, always store it in this case for protection.
- Do not try to tune (tighten) your instrument yourself (until you have been taught to do so). Your teacher will make sure the instrument is fit to play.
- Do not ever play your instrument with anything other than your hands. Playing it with sticks or mallets will almost certainly wear out your skin and cause it to split.

### Tabla

- You must always use a little talcum powder on the tabla (but not too much!) when playing your instrument. This is to stop your hands from perspiring and to help you play. Always use good quality talcum powder.

## REPAIRS

For EMS rented instruments	For personally owned instruments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your instrument stops working properly or you have an accident with it, do not try to repair it yourself. Show your teacher at your next lesson and they will either mend it for you or fill in a repair slip for you to take to EMS with the instrument. This may incur a charge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your instrument stops working properly or you have an accident with it, do not try to repair it yourself. Show your teacher at your next lesson and they may be able to mend it for you. They will be able to give you advice on how and where to get it repaired. There are also some ideas on the <a href="#">EMS website</a>.</li> </ul>

The EMS website has lots of information regarding the EMS Instrument Hire Scheme, Music Events in Ealing, Ensembles available to join in the borough and advice on practicing.

[www.ealingmusicservice.com](http://www.ealingmusicservice.com)