

DJEMBE DRUM INFO FROM GREGG HANSEN



NOTES FROM GREGG:

- The Heartwood Project Djembes from Ghana are the best choice for beginners.
- Even though all the djembes look similar, the biggest difference will always be the skins. The Meinl brand, which has very cheap prices, is variable on skin quality.
- The Heartwood Ghana djembes have much more consistent skins as a rule. Below are several links of these particular djembes. There are also a couple of videos that are very informative

LINKS & VIDEOS:

- **How to choose a djembe**
<https://www.djembedirect.com/how-to-choose-your-djembe-drum/>
- **Video of the Ghana Djembes from Heartwood Project**
<https://www.africaheartwoodproject.org/product/drum-circle-djembe-drums/>
- **Blemished Discount Ghana Djembes** - surface cracks or dings in the wood do not prohibit playing quality. Good prices on good drums. The photos show exactly what the blemish is. <https://www.djembedirect.com/shop-all/>
- **More Ghana Heartwood Djembes - full size especially**
<https://www.djembedirect.com/hand-carved-djembe-drum-from-africa-13x24-drum-circle-village/>
- **And More**
<http://www.goatskins.com/ghana-djembes.html>
- **Interesting info on types of Djembe Drumming, Charts for hieghth of drum VS body, etc.**
<https://www.djembe-art.de/djembe-buying.htm>
Including: Trance Djembe - this is my style.... (see more info below)

USES AND TYPES OF DJEMBE DRUMS:

According to the main use, the capability of a Djembe can be divided in Ensemble Djembe, Allround Djembe, Solo Djembe and Trance Djembe. These subdivisions tell you something about the sound character of the drum. They are an important criterion for your orientation to buy the right Instrument for your purpose. All tonal qualities can be strongly influenced by tuning and tension.

1. ENSEMBLE DJEMBE

for Beginners, Drum Workshop, School, Drum Circle

The basic requirement for each Djembe is the Ensemble accompaniment. With it one can play and keep the recurring basic rhythms of the group accompaniments. In doing so, the drum produces a wide sound carpet, which forms the basic framework of a rhythm. When a Djembe meets these requirements, we call it an Ensemble Djembe. Most of these drums are in our Basic and Standard Class categories. The Ensemble Djembe has its qualities and areas of application. It resonates well with the basic rhythm

of the Ensemble. It is suitable not only for drum Ensemble accompaniment, but also to support a melody instrument or a singer with a broad carrying rhythm carpet.

2. ALLROUND DJEMBE

for Beginners, Intermediates, Drum Workshop, School, Drum Circle

We place higher demands on the Allround Djembe. It should not only make ensemble accompaniment with basic rhythms possible. Further it should be able to evolve itself clearly from the basic rhythm through a stronger attack. The enjoyment of this level of drumming is usually discovered by beginners after a half a year of practice. Compared to solo Djembe an Allround Djembe is still somewhat tamer in its expression, but it allows you to "take off" in terms of expressing yourself beyond the basic rhythms. We use the term Allround Djembe when it is in-between and shows both virtues of Ensemble and Solo characters.

3. SOLO DJEMBE

for Beginners, Intermediates, Advanced, Professionals, Drum Workshop, Djembe Teacher, Studio and Stage Performances Drum Circle Leaders ...

The premier class is the so-called Solo Djembe. We call it a Solo Djembe if it is able to be played extremely clear and differentiated above the basic rhythms of the Ensemble. Due to its particularly distinguished and striking sound qualities a solo Djembe can be played very loud on request. The Tones and Slaps sound much clearer and more defined than the Ensemble and Allround drum. A real 'must-have' not only for the full-blooded percussionist, but also for the beginner who wants to learn the Djembe with ease and thereby develop faster and further. With a Solo instrument you can easily take the lead in a percussion group. It is particularly suitable for playing clear acoustic signals such as Blocage, Break and the Echauffement. As its name implies a Solo Djembe will allow you to improvise and virtuously decorate the groove with more spectacular patterns and rolls on top. At this point, we often hear beginners say: "but I do not want to always play in the foreground and have everyone notice possible mistakes." Don't worry, you can play every solo drum gentle, soft and quietly and thus accompany an ensemble in the background. You can just as easily dose your power as on the accelerator pedal of your car. No one would always drive full speed, if he owns a powerful sports car. The dosing is up to you. Any Solo Djembe can even be tuned down low to meet the requirements of a carrying Ensemble drum. But the nice thing about a Solo drum is that you can play it with much less effort. You can even play it extra quiet, more precise and beautifully clear, and it is still sonically very differentiated. The tonewood of a good Solo Djembe should be very hard and the workmanship very precise.

4. TRANCE DJEMBE

for Beginners - Professionals, Trance Musicians, Shamans, Drum Circle, Therapists

A special position is taken by the Trance Djembe, as it is not tuned for the classic use with clearly focused sounds, that are responsible for one of the polyrhythmic layers in a normal percussion group. It is rather used for meditative drumming, shamanic use, dream voyages and trance states. Its rich wide and room filling properties help us to perceive deeper levels of consciousness. We choose Trance Djembes with a particularly large diameter, as these particularly favor a stronger sustain character with a more extended vibration behavior. Along with the right drumhead, such an instrument can sound most impressive, especially because the djembe shape itself amplifies the sound signal so much.