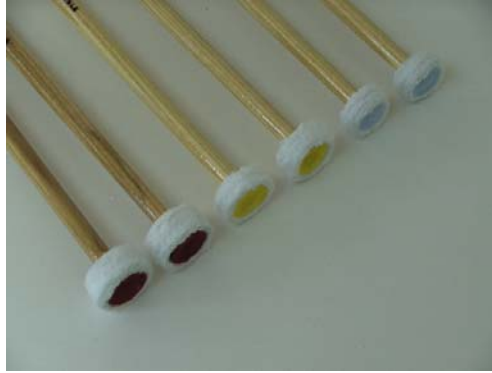


FLANNELSCHLAGEL STICKS



My medium (FS 1), medium hard (FS 2) and Hard (FS 3) flannel-headed sticks are based on a very old stick making tradition popular to this day in Germany and Austria and regions musically influenced by them. They are not widely familiar in many other parts of the world. Unlike most other timpani sticks, the flannelschlagel is made by compressing numerous circular layers of flannel and mounting them on the handle.

Traditionally, the flannel layers were tightly compressed by a screw on or fixed top nut and required a stick that was also made with a bulb or baluster just beneath the flannel disks. I developed my flannel sticks to eliminate the need for (and additional cost of) both the top nut and the baluster. As in the traditional “flannelschlagel” the flannel disks are still arranged such that you are actually playing on the edge of the disks. This creates a unique (and initially sometimes aggressive) contact sound that nevertheless offers many timpanists another sound color in their collection of sticks.

My flannel sticks use different numbers of disks to achieve their unique sounds. Before your sticks leave my shop, I voice each pair to eliminate the harsher edgy sounds common in new sticks of this type and to achieve the right balance of sound. It is important that the flannel is not softened too much initially as these sticks will continue to soften from use. In fact, they are better after they have been “broken in” by playing.

If you develop a hard spot with use, isolate its location by gently tapping the stick on the head of the drum as you turn the stick in your hand. You can either fluff the hard spot with the tines of a fork (going across the direction of the flannel discs and parallel to the length of the stick), or you can snip out the offending spot with a pair of sharp scissors and then follow up with a light fluffing of that spot. It is also important that you turn the stick in your hand and play on different areas of the head. As there is no side seam, you don’t need to worry about playing on a seam.

Playing on different areas of the head also helps to keep it in round (remember, there is no “core” as such to sticks of this type) and is essential to maintaining uniformity of sound and to avoid developing flat spots on the head of the stick. You can expect that the exact shape of the head will change with continued use. If you develop some areas where the flannel begins to pull away from the stick, cut it off with scissors; don’t pull it.

When your sticks have gotten to the point that the heads need to be replaced, please return the sticks to me for the making and mounting of new heads.

Thank you for your order.

Ron Carlisle
Carlisle Percussion Products