

YOUR FIRST DJEMBE

We're here to help you choose your first djembe wisely. This checklist covers the basics; give us a call if you have any questions or drop by our St Kilda Studio and we'll guide you through it

- HEIGHT** Standard height range: 60cm - 65cms tall
When seated, the rim of the drum should be a couple of inches above the thigh. The rim shouldn't be below or level with your leg, nor more than 4 inches above it.
- HIDE/SKIN** Beginners: Thin - Medium
If you're a beginner then not too thick! Thinner skins are more responsive and easier on the hands
- WOOD** The shell should be made from a single piece of timber. Entry level drums tend to be made from medium density woods. Premium djembes are carved from hardwoods, lending wide and rich tonal ranges from skilled carvers
- DIAMETER** Standard head: 12"
Look for between 11" - 14" depending on your hand size
- EXTRAS** Some drums have the hide overlapping the rim which is a Guinean aesthetic style of skinning and has no effect on the sound. Rubber tread is often added to the base for protection as a shock absorber and to prevent slipping

THE AFRICAN DRUMMING DJEMBE RANGE



INDO GHANA SPECIAL PRIMO MASTER CUSTOM

GET GOOD QUICK



PLAY = PROGRESSION

It's a simple formula: the more you play the better you become. But you also need to practice smart. Here are some handy tips to fast track your playing

PRACTICE SMART

20 minutes of quality practice a day is better than one long unfocused blast a week. Playing too fast is one of the easiest mistakes to make; take it easy and build up muscle strength and memory

TUITION

Classes and good old fashion 1-on-1 sessions are the way forward. Connect with different teachers and welcome the challenges and rewards of the path of the djembefola

FRIENDS LIKE THESE

Band together with like-minded people to practice and jam with familiar and new content

ATTEND WORKSHOPS

Make the most of study intensives - they will fast track your skill level. Look out for sessions which cover dexterity, dunun, and the ensemble

GET YOUR OWN DJEMBE

To do the above you'll need to beg, borrow or preferably buy your own piece of djembe real estate

LISTEN, GRASSHOPPER

Listen to as much West African music as you can - ask your teachers for their favourite artists and influences. Solo on your steering wheel. Take advantage of any local scene near you and get along to gigs