groovebar

How to install

Congratulations on your new groovebar!

With the groovebar you always have your triggers on the set. Once mounted, always with you - and almost invisible!
To make sure the installation works trouble-free, this manual describes how to proceed, which things you have to pay attention to and how you can best adapt the groovebar to your needs during installation.

Note:
Along with your groovebar you will receive an Allen wrench and a 7mm open-end wrench. You can use a standard Phillips screwdriver if that works better for you or your drums.

The groovebar for toms and bass drum

Thanks to its movable side rails, which you can also remove if necessary, the groovebar can be used for large bass drums and toms from 13" to 18" without any problems. For toms with a smaller diameter there is an extra short groovebar.

The groovebar for Snare Drums

The groovebar for Snare Drums comes with special mounts that allow you to use the groovebar on snares with two rows of tune lugs as well as snares with only one row of tune lugs.

Positional sensing, hot spot and rim sounds

Customize the groovebar to the capabilities of your drum module by placing it in the drum accordingly.

E-Drums or Hybrid Drums

You can either use the groovebar in combination with mesh heads to turn your drum into a real e-drum pad. Or you can mount a standard drum head to play your acoustic drums as usual and add electronic sounds.

So let's get started and pimp your drums!

Initial considerations

Save time: think about the concept, then realize it!

Since there are different approaches for the installation, you should be clear about two things in advance:

1. What is your sound module capable of (and what not), respectively which functions are (not) of interest to you?

2. What are your drums like (snare lift-off position, tom holder, air hole position, etc.)?

We'll briefly discuss the most important points you should have on your radar. This will allow you to create a precise plan and implement it in a focused manner.

Notes on the toms

With toms, we generally recommend that you don't place the trigger in the center. Because you usually hit the center of the head - but you don't want to hit the trigger exactly with the stick. Because that would cause the „hot spot" effect: the triggered sound will be excessively loud at that spot.
Therefore, you place the trigger rather at the edge of the head, e.g. in the area facing you. This way you position the trigger area for rim sounds where you would normally play a rimshot on the tom. Or you can intentionally position the groovebar in the exact opposite spot to specifically use the rim for trigger sounds only.
Remember to consider the position of the groovebar in relation to how your rack tom is suspended or your floor tom is set up.

Notes on the snare drum

The more the trigger is placed in the center of the mesh head, the more consistent the strokes will be interpreted. So whether you hit the head 10 cm to the left of the head rim, or 10 cm from the top, right or bottom, the trigger signal will be the same everywhere if the trigger is positioned below the center of the head.
Some drum modules are equipped with a Positional Sensing function, which can interpret the position where the stick hits, based on the trigger signal, and also provide you with corresponding variations of the sound at different positions. If your module can do this (at least for the snare), then consider whether it is worth to make use of positional sensing and to accept the central position of the trigger as a possible hot spot risk.
Otherwise you can proceed as with the toms and take the trigger out of the line of fire. To find the perfect trigger area, keep in mind that you can also play rim clicks on the snare that are played more to the side and doesn't point directly at you. Of course, if your module doesn't allow rim clicks, this consideration is not relevant.

Notes on the Bass Drum

There's not much to consider here. Since it is always the same spot that is hit by the pedal (or the same two spots in the case of a double pedal), the rule is: move away from the center to eliminate the hot spot.The perfect place for the trigger is the upper rim of the bass drum. However, you should keep an eye on the position of the air hole and don't position the trigger too far away, so that the supplied cable extension is not too short (especially with large bass drums). It may be that mounting it on the right or left edge of your bass drum is a better solution.

Here are some examples of how the groovebar can be installed:

Groove bar positioned centrally

Groove bar positioned at the side (toms)

Position of the groovebar in the bass drum

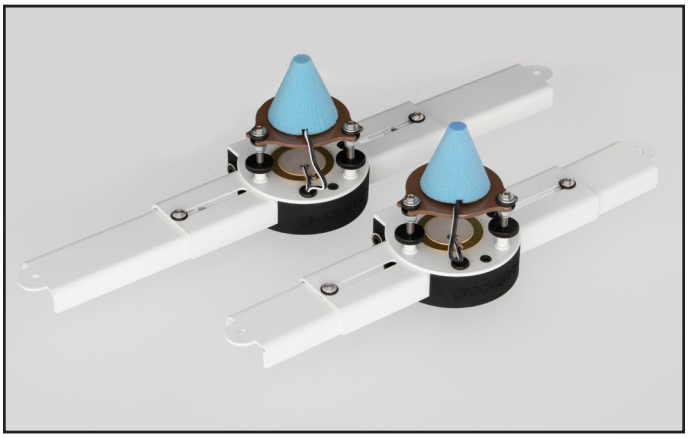
Groove bar long, non-center position

Groove bar short, non-center position

Groove bar, sliders removed

Adapt the groovebar to your drums the best possible way

The main part - the trigger - is the same in all versions. There are three versions of the groovebar to suit the different shell diameters and designs.



groovebar with short sliders for small toms up to 12" diameter

The shorter length adjustable sliders are suitable for mounting the groovebar in toms with a diameter of 12" or smaller. For very small sizes, you can simply remove one or even both sliders to make it fit.

groovebar with long sliders for toms 13" and larger and for bass drums

With its long sliders, the groovebar is suitable for shell diameters up to 24". For toms up to 16" in diameter, you can also position the groovebar in the middle if you prefer.

groovebar with long sliders for snare drums

To install the groovebar in snare drums with two rows of tune lugs as well as in those with only one (central) row of lugs, this groovebar comes with additional special mounting rails.

Installation of the groovebar

First decide how you want to position the groovebar. Create a well-lit place, e.g. a table (preferably with a tablecloth or soft cloth), where you have good access to the instrument, tools and components and can perform the installation cleanly. Remove the batter head from the instrument.

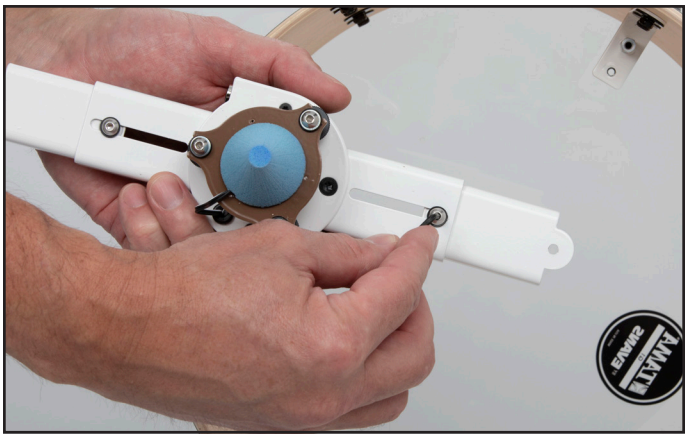
1. Aadjust the groovebar if necessary

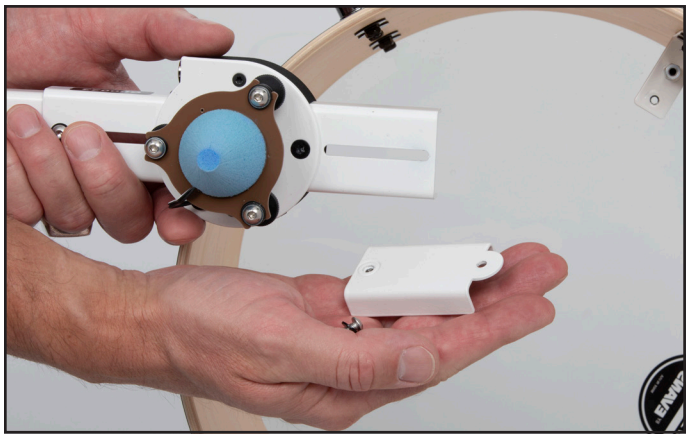
Test-fit the groovebar to the position you have decided on and see if you need to adjust or remove one or both side arms. Also make sure that you install the groovebar correctly in relation to the final position of the instrument on the drum kit.

2. Set the position of the brackets

Each bracket is bolted to the shell together with one of the tune lugs. Use the screws of the tune lugs for this purpose. The tune lugs must be placed far enough apart for the groovebar to fit. If you want to position the groovebar in the center (to use positional sensing), choose two tune lugs that are directly opposite each other.

Example of the position of the brackets

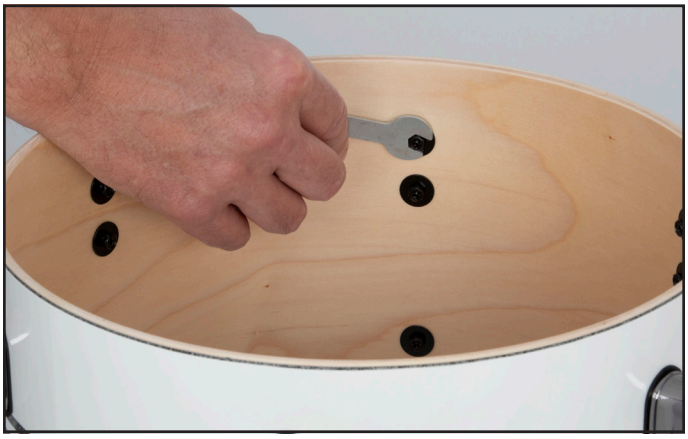


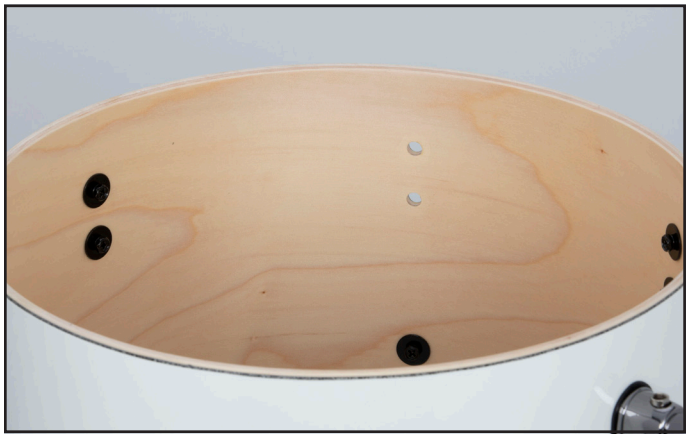


3. Remove the screws from the two selected brackets.

Use the included open-end wrench or another suitable tool.

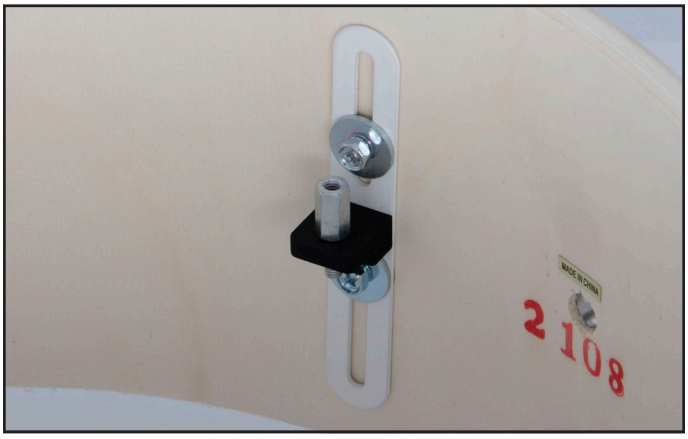
TIPP:
Keep the removed Allen screws handy; you will need them later to screw the groovebar to the brackets!

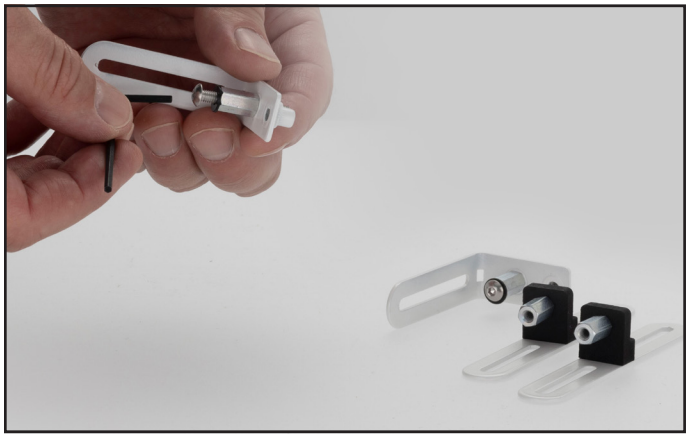




4. Remove the Allen screws from the brackets

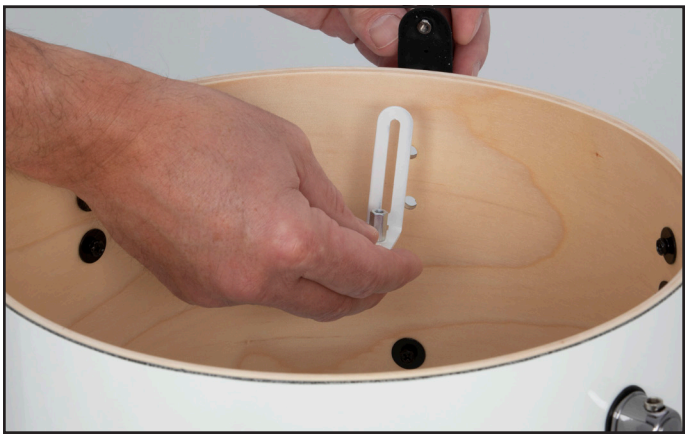
First, select the right bracket: the angle bracket (for shells with two rows of tune lugs) or the straight bracket (for shells with only one row of tune lugs). Use the Allen wrench to remove the screw from each bracket.

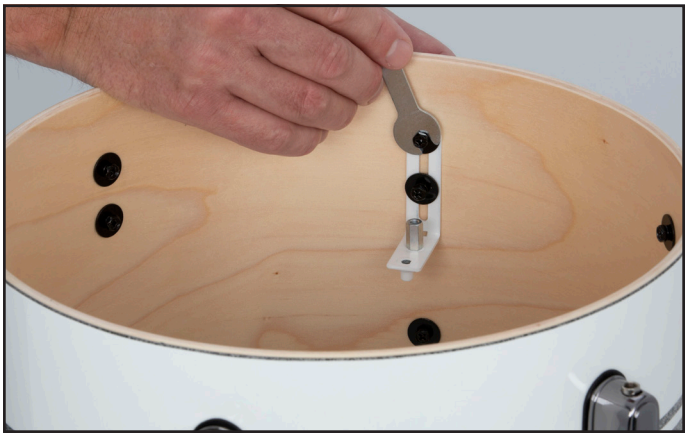




5. Attach the brackets together with the tune lugs

The brackets go on the inside of the shell; the tune lugs go on the outside in their original places. The tune lug screws connect everything together.

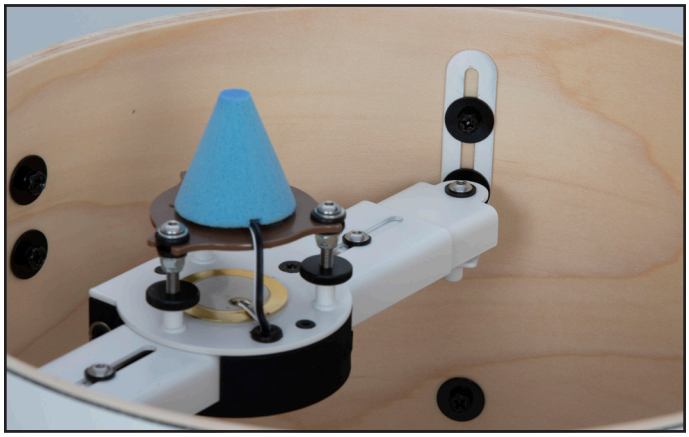


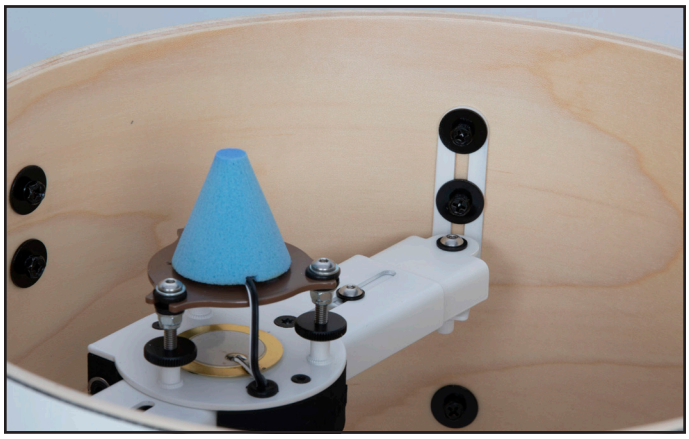


NOTE:
In some cases it may be useful to height adjust the bracket but in general, the alignment at the top of the long slot is recommended!

6. Make sure that both brackets are installed at the same height

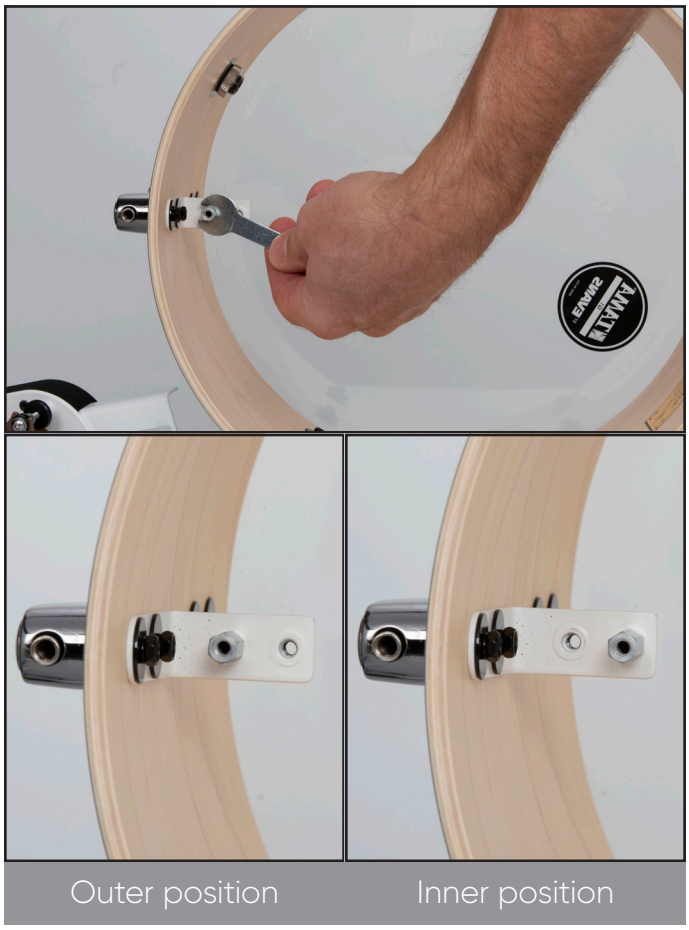
The long slots on the brackets are not meant for adjusting the installation height; rather, they ensure that the brackets fit on as many instruments as possible. Therefore, it is recommended to simply tighten the brackets to the top of the long slots.





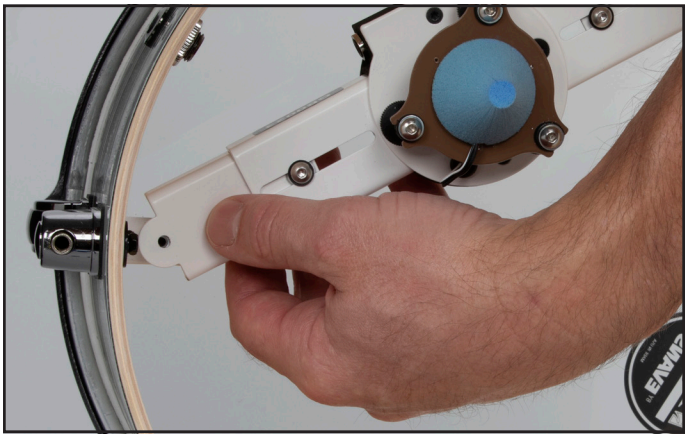
7. If you have removed one or both sliders: adjust the base of the holder if necessary

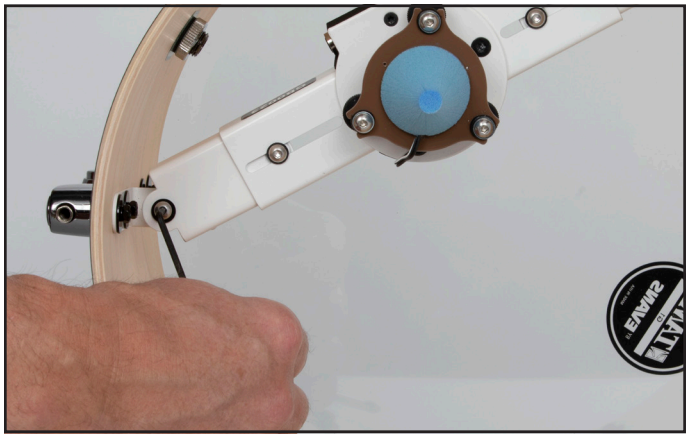
For each removed slider of the groovebar, you will need to reposition the hex base to the inner position so that the groovebar does not tilt. You can use the included open-end wrench for this.

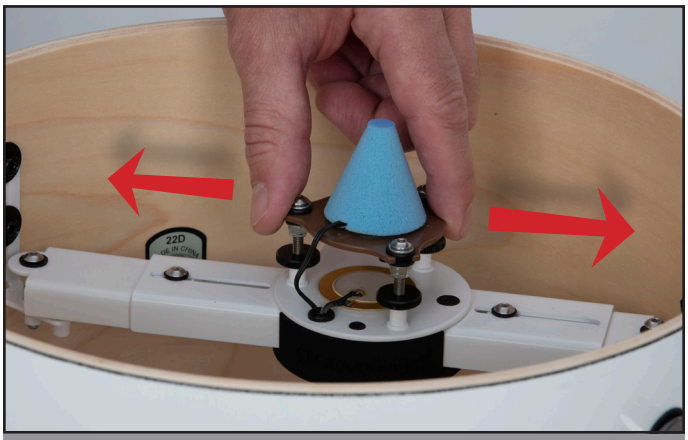


8. Align the groovebar with the brackets and tighten the screws

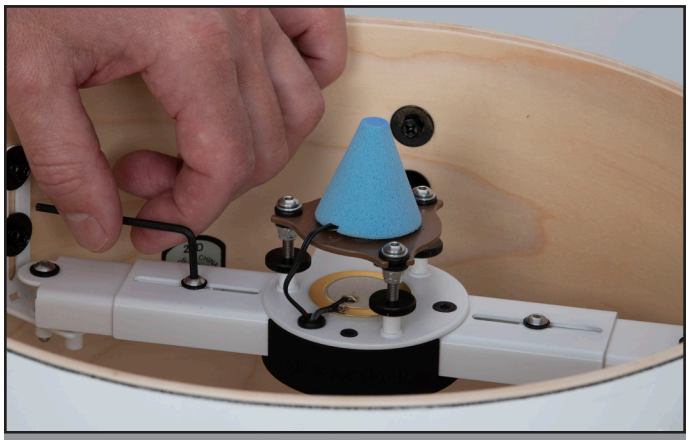
If necessary, loosen the Allen screws of the sliders (if present) to adjust the groovebar to the correct length by moving the sliders. Screw the ends of the groovebar to the brackets. If you use sliders, you can now adjust the position of the trigger by moving it relative to the sliders, if desired. Tighten the screws of the sliders again if necessary.







Moving the trigger into the desired position



Tightening the trigger on the sliders

Congratulations, the installation of the Grove Bar is done! Now you have to adjust the height of the trigger so that the triggering will work perfectly.

At first it can mean a bit of fiddling, pulling the skin on and off several times and repeatedly fine-tuning the height until everything is just right; however, you only need to do this process once per groovebar.

Let's go - just keep reading!

Adjusting the Height of the Trigger

Visual check

The trigger should stick out about 1-2 mm of the shell. It needs to be in contact with the drumhead or mesh head without being „crushed" by the head. You can visually check if you need to adjust the trigger at all. To do this, first look straight ahead over the edge of the shell so that you can see both the front edge of the shell (which you can see from the outside) and the rear edge (i.e. the inside).
Then move down and continue to look straight ahead until you can no longer see the rear edge. Your field of view thus forms a line with the front edge and the back edge. From this perspective, you should see the trigger sticking out about a millimeter. If you can't see the trigger or it sticks out too far, you can adjust the height of the trigger directly on the groovebar. You will need the Allen key for this.

From here move your body downwards (always look straight ahead!)...

... until you just can't see the back edge anymore

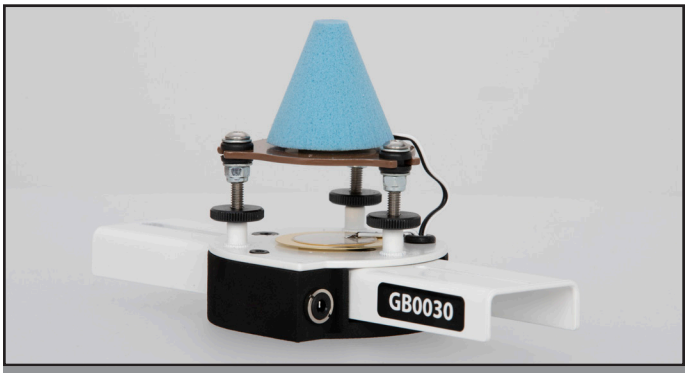
Height of the trigger after adjustment

Haptic test with mounted head

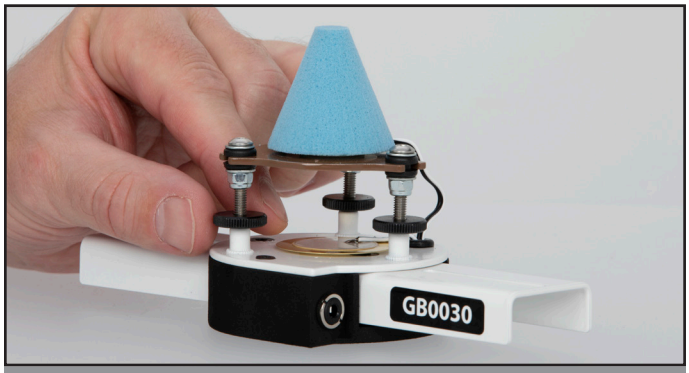
After you have finished installing the groovebar and remounted the head, run your finger over the spot where the trigger is located.
If the groovebar is installed correctly, you should feel a slight (!) bulge there. If not, the trigger probably does not have enough connection to the head - false triggers may occur. If the bulge is too strong, the skin and trigger are unnecessarily stressed and false triggers can be triggered here as well.

Example on the removed groovebar:
Setting the trigger lower

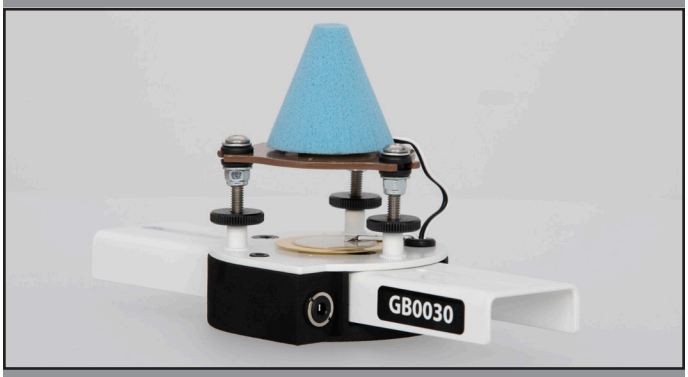
Do the adjustment as described in the pictures. To set the trigger lower, turn the adjusting screws clockwise. Turn them counterclockwise to increase the trigger. Make sure that you adjust all screws evenly so that the trigger remains straight. After the adjustment you have to tighten the lock nuts well, so that nothing comes loose when playing the drums!



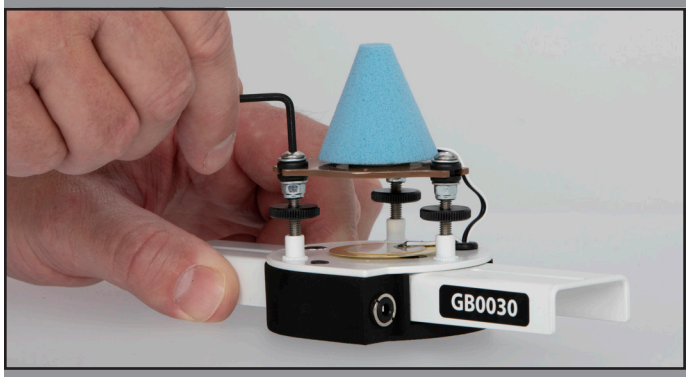
Initial position of the trigger



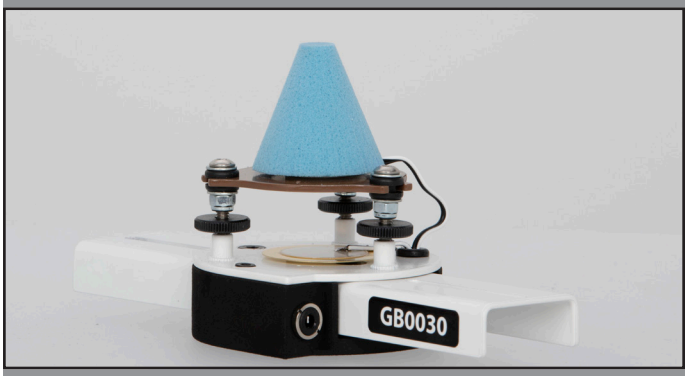
Loosening the lock nuts...



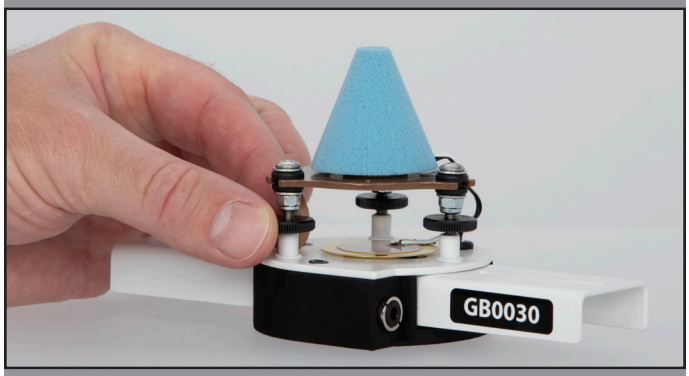
... so that they are approximately halfway up the adjustment screws



Even adjustment with the Allen key (for lower adjustment: turn clockwise)



When all screws are adjusted...



... the lock nuts have to be tightened again!

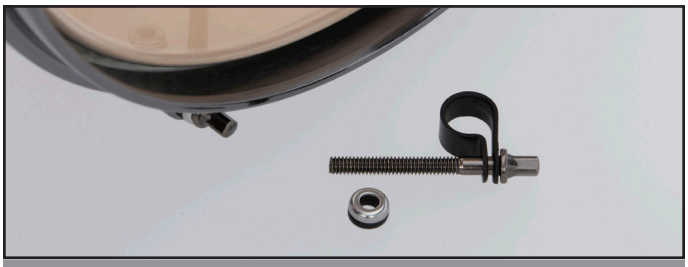
Fixing the holder for the cable socket

Not too far from the air hole!

The bracket for the cable jack is fixed with one of the tuning screws on the resonator head side. Choose a tuning screw that is easily accessible for you; just make sure that you do not set the bracket too far from the air hole of the shell, as the cable will be passed through there.

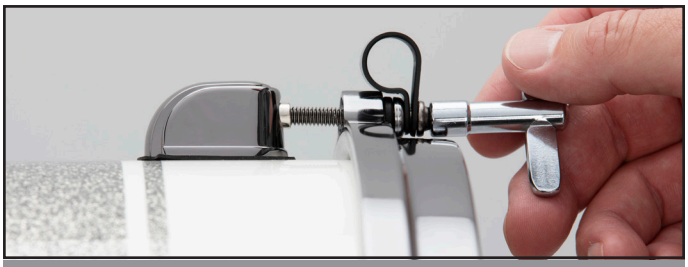
Removing the tuning screw

Socket holder and tuning screw with washer



Slide the holder onto the tuning screw (Pay attention to the correct mounting position of the bracket!)

Now slide on the washer; if necessary, observe the installation position here as well



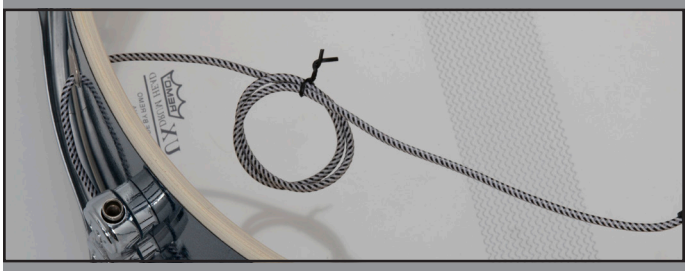
Tighten tuning screw with holder again

If bracket is too tight: Loosen tuning screw, Push bushing through, retighten tuning screw

The last step: Pull and plug in the cable

Pulling the cable through the socket holder

Insert cable through air hole



If necessary, wind the cable and fix it with wire

Pull the cable between the tune lug and tuning screw

Insert cable plug
(plug must snap into place)

Insert cable socket into socket holder

DONE!

TIPP:
Before you put the head back on, go through all screw connections and check them for tightness.