

# Jack Lawton's Questions & Answers

**Q:** *How difficult is it to tuck a calf skin head?*

**A:** Tucking a calf skin or goat skin head isn't too difficult, provided you follow some basic guide lines. First, you want to make sure the piece of skin will be big enough. You'll need to allow four extra inches for snare and tom heads, and six extra inches for bass drum heads. So, for a 14" drum head, you will need a piece of skin that is 18" in diameter, and a 22" bass drum head will require a piece that is 28" in diameter. Next, make sure your existing flesh hoop is in good condition. It may be necessary to reglue the overlap seam of the flesh hoop. If so, make sure that you size it to fit the drum shell with enough room to accommodate the thickness of the skin. The calf or goat skin will then need to be soaked in *cold* water to make it pliable enough to tuck. (NOTE: If hot or very warm water is used, the natural gelatine in the skin will be removed, which will ruin the head.) The skin will need to be soaked from 15 to 30 minutes, depending on it's thickness and size. When you remove the skin from the water, allow the excess water to drip off, then lay it out on a flat smooth surface, with the rough side of the skin facing up, and smooth it out with your hand until it lies flat. Next, position the flesh hoop in the center of the skin, leaving an even margin around the outside edge of the hoop. Fold the skin over the hoop at the 12:00, 6:00, 3:00, and 9:00 positions of the hoop, then, using a tucking tool, or the handle of a smooth handled spoon, proceed tucking the skin around the flesh hoop. Make sure to avoid wrinkles or unevenness. Also, try not to pull the skin too tight while tucking to avoid possible damage to the flesh hoop as it dries. Once the head is finished, place it on the shell and secure it with the rim and tension rods with enough pressure to form a collar of about an eighth of an inch. Allow snare drum and tom tom heads to dry for 24 hours and bass drum heads about twice that long. Make sure that while the skin is drying, the drum is set on it's rim and not on it's side, so the heads will dry evenly. The first few times you try this might be quite frustrating, but after a while, it will get easier.

**Q:** *What are the differences between Ludwig Standard and Ludwig Rocker drums? Are lugs interchangeable and are they still available?*

**A:** We could probably write an entire article on the first part of that question. For now, we'll take a look at the major differences between the Standards and the Rockers, as well as the difference between the Standards and Classics, and the Rockers and Super Classics.

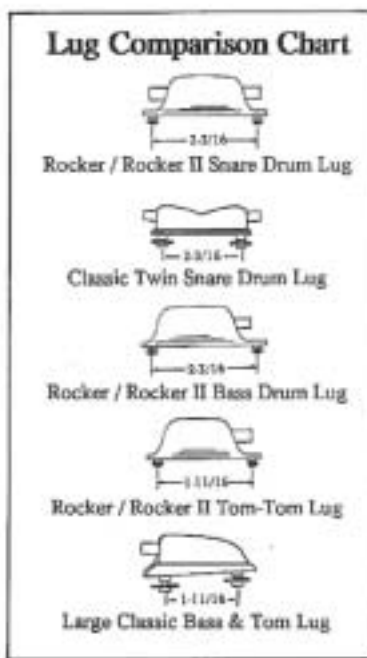
The Ludwig Standard line was introduced in 1968, and featured "LUDWIG TOP QUALITY AT A MODERATE PRICE". In 1971, when the top-of-the-line Ludwig Super Classic 4 piece drumset listed for \$566.00, the Ludwig Standard S-320 Power Packed 4 piece outfit had a list price of \$459.00, which is almost 20% less than the Classic series. Both outfits had the same 3 ply shells with glue rings, but the Standard drums had cheaper lugs, t-rods, and hardware package. Ludwig Standard drums were available in fifteen different colors in three types of finish, Stratas, Mists, and Astros. The very early Standard shells had the white "Resacote" interiors, but soon changed to the speckled "Granitone" acoustical coating.

Another very noticeable difference were the badges. While the Classic line was making a transition from the gold keystone to the blue and olive badges, the Standards had a black on silver triangle badge with a rounded bottom. These Ludwig Standards would only be available for six years, as they were discontinued by March 1, 1974. Near the end of the Standard's production, Ludwig had more shells finished in Standard finishes than they had lugs for, so the balance of the shells were assembled using large classic lugs, since the hole spacing was the same.

Ten years later, Ludwig came out with a new line of drums to tar-



get the beginner and intermediate drummers. These new drums were the Ludwig Rocker and Rocker II series. In the late 1980's, when a conventional 5 piece Classic outfit listed for \$2,405.00, the same set in the Rocker series was over 50% less, at \$1,175.00 and the Rocker II's were 17% less than that at a price of \$975.00. At first, the Rocker drums were outfitted with mini-classic lugs on the toms, large classic lugs on the bass drums, and twin classic lugs on the snare. Other classic hardware on these drums included floor tom legs and brackets, curved spurs, t-rods and claws, along with wooden, inlaid bass drum hoops. The Rocker II, on the other hand, had the old Standard style lugs, cheaper telescopic spurs, cheaper t-rods and claws on chrome plated metal bass drum hoops. On both Rocker and Rocker II, a 22" bass drum only had 16 lugs, while the Classic had twenty. At first, the Rocker and Rocker II's had speckled "Granitone" interiors, but after a few years, the Rocker's had undergone some changes. They switched to a "clear maple" interior, and went from the classic lugs to the Standard style lugs



that were on the Rocker II's. They also lost the inlay groove in the wooden bass drum hoops, went to the cheaper t-rods and claws, and switched to the "swing-out" style spurs. By this time, the Super Classic shells were constructed with "select rock maple and American white-wood laminations", while the Rocker's boasted a 4 ply shell that was made with "select American wood veneers", and the Rocker II's 4 ply shell was just billed as an "all wood shell". As for the lugs and their hole spacing, the Rocker bass drum and snare drum lugs measured 2-3/16", center-to-center, while the tom lugs were 1-11/16", center-to-center, (see chart). I don't know how consistent they were at using bass drum lugs only on bass drums, and tom lugs only on tom-toms, so you should measure the hole spacing on any Ludwig Standard, Rocker, or Rocker II drum before ordering replacement lugs. Even though the Standard/Rocker style lug no longer appears in the Ludwig Replacement Parts catalog, I recently checked with customer service, and they still have a modest supply in stock.

In future issues of *VINTAGE DRUMMER* Magazine, we'll answer more of these types of questions. If you have a particular restoration problem or inquiry that you would like addressed, please submit it to *Jack Lawton's Questions and Answers* Column, c/o Vintage Drummer, 770-438-0844, fax # 770-437-9044, email [billy@vintagedrummer.com](mailto:billy@vintagedrummer.com).

## STANTON MOORE

### NAMED CLINICIAN/EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Vancouver, BC. - Ronn Dunnett, president of Dunnett Classic Drums Ltd. is pleased to announce that Stanton Moore (Galactic / Garage a Trois) has been awarded the Eric A. Bergquist award for excellence in education in the percussive arts. In a recent interview Dunnett stated "This is something that I have always wanted to do, to create an award that not only recognizes and acknowledges the contribution that professional drummers and teachers make, but to those take above and beyond the call. Creating a quality experience in the clinic format is a big challenge. Stanton has taken 'the clinic' to a new level. Each time I see him in this environment I see the audience walking away inspired by more than just having seen an awesome display of musicianship. We all take home a wealth of fresh, practical ideas, a better understanding of drumming from a historic perspective and the sheer pleasure of sharing a few hours with an artist who is there for no other reason than to share his knowledge and pure love of drumming."

The Eric A. Bergquist award's namesake was a Canadian pioneer and Ronn Dunnett's friend and mentor. "Eric was a man who had a deep appreciation and awareness of the dynamic between teacher and student. The award itself is a glass Inukshuk, an icon in the Canadian North - a signpost made from rock that takes on human form that was left as a message for future travellers, that message being "I have been here before - keep going, you are on

the right path. I think that's very appropriate." But there is more to how this award came about.

After learning of the passing of Modern Drummer editor Ron Spagnardi, a group of drummers at online internet forum [drumsmith.com](http://drumsmith.com) decided to make a contribution to the Modern Drummer scholarship fund. "I was moved by that and I wanted to respond with something that would honor Eric and Ron."

As part of the award, Dunnett Classic Drums will make a cash contribution to the Modern Drummer scholarship fund in Stanton's name. The money raised through auctions and donations from [drumsmith.com](http://drumsmith.com) will be included.

The award was presented to Stanton on October 8th after a clinic in Vancouver.

Dunnett Classic Drums is a Vancouver drum company with an international reputation for creating snare drums crafted from the finest exotic woods and metals including titanium.

Stanton Moore is currently on tour supporting the latest release from Galactic "Ruckus".



L-R: James Johnson, Carlos Vallejo, Stanton Moore, Ronn Dunnett