Quick Fixes When Traveling with Percussion Instruments

Bill Wilkinson

Obviously, good maintenance procedure, careful preparation, and good training will prevent most of these issues. Here’s what to do when reality asserts itself:

Vibraphone

Slipping Pedal-
- Missing thumb screw, or perhaps screw is stripped
- Slide shaft could be dirty, especially if smooth

Solution-
- Thin layer of duct tape to increase slide shaft diameter. Jam into receiver.
- If slide shaft is disconnecting from damper bar, zip-tie to damper bar.
- Clean slide shaft

Missing or Broken Drive Belts-
- Belts have aged and loosened or cracked.

Solution-
- Spare belts from McMaster Carr: Part Number 9452K197
- String together rubber bands for a temporary belt.

Timpani

Drum not holding pitch in upper/lower range-
- Balance-spring system uncalibrated
- Head has stretched

Solution-
- Righty tighty toe, then raise head tension.

Tuning Gauges Missing or Destroyed-
- Pitch labels have fallen off
- Mechanism is damaged
Solution-
- Homemade gauge made of fishing gear, office supplies and craft felt.

Cymbal/Snare Stands

Height Adjustment Slipping-
- Shaft could be dirty
- Clamping mechanism is damaged
- Wing nut is stripped

Solution-
- Clean affected area
- Gear clamp at desired height

Marching Equipment

Carriers Missing Fasteners-
- Nuts and bolts come loose due to vibration
- Bolt could have sheared off

Solution-
- Assorted Fastener kit
- Zip-ties
- Take fasters from other points on the carrier

Cracked Bass Drum Hoops
- Drum fell off of carrier
- Over-tensioning of head

Solution-
- Duct tape crack, rotate to less visible side of drum, place under a claw.

What should I keep in my Percussion instrument emergency kit?

- Basic Hand Tools, Small spare parts, Replacement materials.
# Percussion Crash Kit Component List

**Tools:**

- 16 x 8" Tool Box
- 8" Adjustable Wrench
- 7" Locking Pliers
- 40pc. SAE/ Metric Socket Set
- Folding SAE/ Metric Hex Key Set
- 6" Pliers
- 6" Needle Nose Pliers
- 6-in-1 Screwdriver
- Precision Screwdrivers
- 25" Tape Measure
- Thread pitch gauge
- Rawhide or Rubber Mallet
- Drum Keys
- High-Tension Drum Keys
- Ludwig Timpani Key
- Yamaha Timpani Key
- Adams Timpani Key
- Flashlight
- Hobby Knife

**Materials:**

- Assorted Gear Clamps
- Super Glue
- Small Roll of Duct Tape
- Small WD-40
- Assorted Zip Ties
- 50ft of Paracord
- 50ft of fishing line
- 2 3/4 oz. Fishing Weights
- Small Binder Clips
- Napkins
- Rubber Bands
- Masking Tape
- Permanent Marker
- Wet Erase Marker

**Parts:**

- Cymbal Sleeves
- Cymbal Felts
- Cymbal Wingnuts
- Cymbal Washers
- Assorted Fasteners
- Spare Vibraphone Belts
- Assorted Tension Rods
- Bass Drum Claws

**Electronics:**

- Switchable Power Supply
- Extra IEC C7 (No Polarity)
- Extra IEC C13/C14
- Extension Cable

http://a.co/1U3klAw