

Drums from West Africa

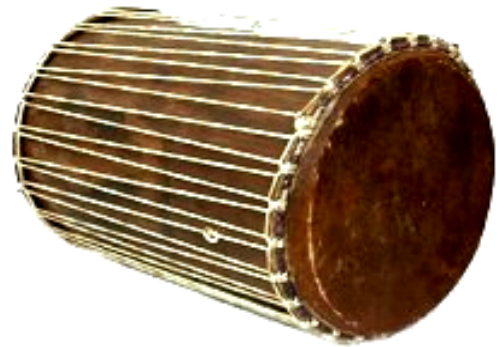
With its remarkably flexible range of tones, produced by its thin goat skin, shape and tight tuning, the **Djembe** is West Africa's most popular drum. Used throughout West Africa today, it is traditionally from Senegal, Guinea, Burkina Faso and the Ivory Coast amongst the Bambara, Mandingo and Malinka tribes. The **bass** is played with an open hand in the centre of the drum producing a deep and resonant note. The **tone** is played on the side of the skin with a firm hand, producing a high pitched note. The **slap** is played by an open hand pivoted on the side of the drum, throwing the fingers forward to slap the skin. This produces a crisp, sharp note, which can cut through the loudest music. The **Doun Doun** is a double - ended bass drum made with thick cow skin. Often the hair is left on the skin producing a warmer, and more mellow tone. It is the most commonly played as the bass for the Djembe, usually in a pair of different sizes. The **Donno** is held under one arm, and squeezed to tighten the heads and produce a variety of pitches. This imitates the speech patterns of African languages, and explains why it is often known as a " talking drum."



Djembe – the lead drum



Donno, or Talking drum



Doun Doun – the bass drum



Kpanlogo



Bougarabou



Apentema

The **Kpanlogo** drum is perhaps the best known West African peg drum, smaller than the Latin – American conga, but of similar shape and sound. Antelope skin is used for its head, producing a soft and resonant tone, played with the hands.