

## PRODUCT CLOSE-UP

# Green Music Company: Snare Buzz Mute

The Anti-Buzz Tool That Helps Eliminate Unwanted Snare Buzz at the Flip of a Switch.

By Brian Hill

**S**nare Buzz: A phrase we're all too familiar with. Nobody really likes it, and nobody really wants it. But how do we get rid of it? Roger Green of the Green Music Company, based out of San Juan Capistrano, CA, has come up with a very clever device that may be a great solution for many frustrated drummers.

First, what exactly is snare buzz? By my definition, snare buzz is the sound of your snares vibrating when not being played. These unwanted snare vibrations are the result of the snares reacting to sympathetic frequencies from other sound sources such as the drums in your set-up, bass and other guitars, keyboards or other amplified sounds having a frequency too close to the frequency tuning of the snare drum.

Like most of you, I too am constantly struggling to get rid of that annoying buzz. I've tried all kinds of ways to eliminate this with (mostly) not such good results. Just about everything I've tried seemed to really alter the way my snare sounded to the point that it was not acceptable to me or simply didn't work very well.

One day while exploring the topic, it was suggested to me that the reason was one of pure physics: Sympathetic Vibrations reacting within my drum kit. The best way to eliminate it was to tune it out. That is, to get the offending drum(s) and the snare tuned to different pitches so that the drums are producing frequencies far enough apart so not to interact with each other to the point of snare buzz.

Wow, that sounds easy enough! Just tune it out! This technique, probably the best answer to reduce the buzz being produced by our own drums, comes with some limitations and compromise. The compromise comes with having to tune the drums essentially not to affect each other by frequency, which means they may sound a bit different from where you initially tuned them. The limitation is found in that your tuning will not keep your bass player from lighting up the snares as well as many other sound factors involved with playing music.

The fact that tuning can also be a lifelong journey to perfect for most of us, including myself, will be limiting in itself.

Trying to capture all these external agitators and keep these vibrations under control is nothing less than daunting. This is certainly falling into the wheelhouse of the Snare Buzz Mute (SBM) which is trying to simplify our lives with this handy product. Roger Green was kind enough to send us one to check out. This is what I found.

Snare Buzz Mute is certainly a well thought out design that is an extremely well built piece of gear. The package contained the mute apparatus, eight hard magnetic foam spacer pads (four 4mm and four 8mm), plus one additional spacer (4mm) with a raised



metal piece referred to as a Anti-Choke Bar. This can help you get a hold of the buzz without choking the original drum sound too much.

The Snare Buzz Mute is very simple to install and use. Simply line up the three slots in the apparatus with the three arms in the center of the snare basket. Move the adjustment bar to the lowest position. Measure the distance from the lowest position of the SBM and adjust the snare basket so that the SBM is about one half inch below the snares. Use the spacers to fill in the gap if needed. Using just the pads will give you a more choked affect while utilizing the Anti-Choke Bar pad will reduce the buzz with less sound alteration

and contact to the snares. The SBM lever has three height adjustments to choose from. Fine tuning is achieved by raising and lowering the snare drum basket.

Yes, the SBM will change the sound of the drum depending on how you adjust it, but so does every other solution I've experimented with over the years.

I found the drum still had a really good sound while eliminating up to 100% of the buzz. I liked it even better while trying something closer to the 90% or slightly better range. Obviously, eliminating the buzz from your entire kit will improve the over-all sound quality.

Ideally, I think proper tuning is still the best way to tune out the buzz, but

again there are still short comings to this mode of thought. First, tuning can still be challenging for many as well as time consuming. Secondly, tuning will not help you with other external sound sources coming from other instruments, sound systems, and room changes. SBM will properly address these issues.

The Snare Buzz Mute will fit most snare baskets, but if it doesn't yours, Roger Green recommends the Gibraltar model #5706 snare drum stand. This was an easy review as SBM does what it says it will do: Eliminate the snare buzz! The Green Music Company has several informative videos online. Check 'em out at [snarebuzzmute.com](http://snarebuzzmute.com) and get rid of your "bad buzz!"

