



Grommets? We don't need no stinking grommets!

When you first encounter a Canopus Zelkova snare, you play it over and over again—tuned high, tuned low, with sticks and with brushes, ghost notes and rim shots and cross-stick fills. Eventually, your neighbors complain, and you have to stop for a while.

When that happens, and you're looking over the snare's construction, you'll notice that our single air vent doesn't have grommets. This is highly unusual. We get many questions about this. So we thought we'd clear it once and for all.

First, let's look at why every drum maker uses grommets:

- Protection against the elements
- They're shiny



Grommet Sticker
If you really want a grommet, cut along the dotted line and attach anywhere. Just not on your Zelkova, please.

The protection part is understandable. Nobody wants to get into a battle of elements vs. drums. But we did some research, and found out that grommets for snares became a standard feature in the 1980s, when drummers often had to shoot videos playing on the edge of cliffs, on top of mountains, or in caves. But ask yourself, honestly: how many times will you actually play on top of a mountain, with lightning crashing all around you? Don't they have green screens for that?

Plus: the Zelkova only comes in one finish (which is not sparkle), and you can't get tribal designs or skulls on

it. If you're playing a Zelkova, chances are you're more concerned about sound and resonance than about the eternal war between good and evil and leather pants. And that, my friend, is where grommets are bad.



Grommet-free hole.

A Zelkova snare is made with the trunk of a 200-year-old zelkova tree. Only one snare can be made from each tree. The drums are solid shell, but they're not steam-bent like other solid shell snares. The trees themselves are hollowed out, then seasoned for 2 years. (So your snare is at least 202 years old.) The trademark depth of the tone and wide tuning range comes from the fact that the grain of the wood is aligned—exactly as nature created.

Sign up for the Canopus mailing list at canopus.com and receive a free Zelkova sticker in the mail! Stay updated on when Canopus artists visit your area for clinics and shows, and when local music stores showcase Canopus drums.



So you see, a grommet may be small, but it's still an extraneous piece of metal on the wood. There will be some contact, and even the tiniest bit of contact impedes the full resonance of the drum. And if you've ever played a Zelkova, if you've heard the soft, breathy whisper of its ghost notes and its thunderous crack, you know what resonance is all about.

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