



African Drumming: The Djembe Drum



A djembe (pronounced JEM-bay) is a skin covered hand drum, shaped like a large goblet, and meant to be played with bare hands. According to the Bamana people in Mali, the name of the djembe comes directly from the saying "Anke dje, anke be" which literally translates to "everyone gather together", and defines the drum's purpose.

The djembe can produce three distinct types of note – the "bass", "tone" and "slap", though a variety of other tones can be produced by advanced players. The slap has a high, sharp sound and the tone is more "round" and full. The bass is the lowest.

The key is to either focus or disperse the hand's energy, and position the hand in the correct place.

How do you produce the three Djembe tones?		
	Where on the drum?	Hand position
Bass		
Tone		
Slap		