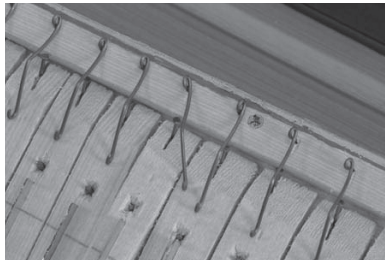


To find the spring arm, you need to lift off the entire keyboard. There should be two screws holding the keyboard in place. Remove the screws



and lift the keyboard. Turn the keyboard over to see the underside of the keys. Each key will have a bent wire that acts as a spring arm. Find the offending key and reset the spring arm into place. In the photo to the left the center key has a slipped spring arm.

In the photo to the right, you can also see the metal pieces on each key that make contact with the strings when the key is depressed.



At times the keys will stick when depressed. If the key stays up when lifted, but stays down when depressed, it may be jammed against the adjacent key. Being constructed of wood, the keys are subject to changes with humidity and may swell and jam against each other. You may be able to wiggle the key up and down until it no longer sticks. If that is not enough, you can slide a piece of fine grit sandpaper between the keys. Move the sandpaper back and forth a few times and try the key again.

## Instrument Care

Here are some simple tips to care for your bulbul tarang.

- Use a dry soft cloth for dusting
- Use a damp soft cloth for cleaning
- Avoid extreme temperatures
- Avoid extremely dry conditions
- Avoid water and high humidity
- Avoid using abrasives

## Accessories

Other instruments and accessories are available at [www.mid-east.com](http://www.mid-east.com)



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Bulbul Tarang

# banjira™

## BULBUL TARANG (INDIAN BANJO)



– OWNER'S GUIDE –

## About your **banjira™ Bulbul Tarang**

**T**he Bulbul Tarang is sometimes called the Indian Banjo although it does not look, or sound, like a banjo. Perhaps it is because this instrument has a similar place in the Indian culture as the banjo has in American culture. In general, the quality standards on Indian instruments usually focus on the functionality of the instrument and the esthetic quality is secondary; Indian instruments often sound better than they look. The bulbul tarang is the most striking example of this phenomenon. Marred finishes, dents, dings, surface imperfections and general blemishes are standard and add to its uniqueness.

## **banjira™ Bulbul Tarang** Description

The Bulbul Tarang has a hinged lid so that you can close it over the playing surface to form a carrying case. The length, number and style of keys, and the number of strings can vary, as do finish decorations.

The strings run the length of the instrument and are attached to the tuning pegs to the left, run over a bridge, under the keys and are attached to the right end of the instrument. Usually, the main strings run in the center with drone, or sympathetic strings on the outsides. The main strings are elevated above the sympathetic strings and are fretted with the keys. The sympathetic strings, being lower, are not fretted or strummed; they pick up the resonance from the main strings and provide the drone.

The keys may vary in appearance; some have typewriter style keys, others look like piano keys. The piano keys vary in width with the lowest note being the widest key. The highest note, to the right, has the slimmest key. The left most key moves but does not fret the strings, it is a vestigial key and plays the open notes.

## **banjira™ Bulbul Tarang** Tuning

Tuning the bulbul tarang is easy. Tune the strings slowly. If the strings are too tight, they may break. If the strings are too loose, the instrument will sound dull. The range of the instrument will be dependent on the string gauge and length. To start, check the gauge of your strings. All the main strings will likely be the same gauge. Therefore, you can tune them to the same key. ‘What Key?’ you ask. Well it depends; there is no right or wrong tuning.

Traditionally, the sound should provide a good match to the vocals it accompanies. Start low, and then raise the pitch of the main strings to a note to accompany your vocals. Try a few different pitches to find your comfort zone. Tune the drone strings an octave and/or a fifth, higher than the main strings.

If you want to be fancy, you can tune most of the main strings to the same note and a few of the strings a bit higher or lower. This produces a very rich tone. Don’t go more than 5 to 10 cents higher or lower.

For even greater variation, you may want to add bronze or brass strings to open up a bass quality to the instrument. Or change the gauge on some of the main strings and tune them one octave apart. Remember the goal is to create a range and notes that are comfortable and complimentary to your unique vocals. One of the attractive features of this instrument is the ease of customization.

## **Bulbul Tarang Keys**

The most common problem is usually experienced when you first receive your bulbul tarang as parts can shift during shipping. You may find that one or more of your keys has lost its rebound. If you have a key that has fallen and can’t get up the most likely culprit is a slipped spring arm.

*continued*