



Lightning Rider Drum Information

Specifications:

Exceedingly rare shamanic drum made from a cross section of a cherry tree struck by lightning in Kentucky, USA.

Weight: 3 lbs. 15 oz.

Girth: 35"

Diameter: 10" (varies)

Height: 4"

Thickness: 1 – 1 ½"

Slightly sloped top facilitates playing.

Accessories:

Drumstick: 12 ½" long

Drum Stand:

Exclusively designed and made by Bob.

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16 ½" square

(when legs are folded closed): 2 ½" bottom

Drum Pad: 13" square

Height: 13 ¾"

Made from vintage, reclaimed 100-year-old cedar farm posts.

Decorations include four tassels affixed with a ring over exclusive artisan-made beads. (Extra replacement beads included.)

Handmade Copper Lightning Bolt affixed to top crossbar.

Hand finished with beeswax and natural oil.

Polishing Cloth included for copper ornaments and totems.

Shell and Smudge Stick included.

Decorations:

Exclusive commissioned pure copper horse totem and lightning bolts made by metal artist / sculpturer Jon "WATTO" Watson, based on his original steel version.

<https://wattonline.com/pages/about-us>

Select, original artisan-made round and flat ceramic beads feature copper mixed with glazing.

Copper, pipestone, gem, glass beads

Nameplate signed by Bob and mounted inside the frame.

Emerald chips center the drum's energy and form the drum's heart space. Chips are embedded in the frame and are covered and protected by the nameplate.

Background: Bob's Thoughts About Lightning Rider Drum

Hello. I'm Bob. Thank you for visiting the Thunder Valley Drums site today and for viewing the Lightning Rider Drum. I am most eager to share some thoughts about it with you.

This incredibly special, one-of-a-kind drum exists after two years of not only my own labors, but with the assistance of others both here and in the spirit world, including the spirit of Lightning Rider itself. Cooperation with Spirit and a loving intention is the only way such a lightning drum can come into being.

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After all, it was Spirit that urged me onto this path many years ago. And after working with shamanism for a time, I gradually began to supplement my physical eyes with an additional way of seeing, and that is with the eye of my heart. All of us have this inborn ability, which the Cherokee call "*chante ishta*." When it awakened in me I realized that what I perceived with my regular eyes as being a weak, lifeless chunk of wood cut from a tree destroyed by lightning was actually a living being with a purpose yet to fulfill.

A living drum, awaiting to join with the consciousness of a shaman or other purposeful healer in service to all.

We know this gift when we are able to love in extraordinary ways, when we see beyond the obvious and peer into potentialities, when we seek to awaken the spirit within us, to live, serve, and love.

We can then begin to perceive the unifying field that joins all things, all others, into the infinite circle of living awareness that is the cycle of life, of birth, death, and rebirth. Of transformation and change. New beginnings. And perpetual renewal.

As we learn to see with the eye of the heart, we can sense the underpinning of existence. Our everyday focus is able to shift from a trained fixation on consensus reality to an awareness of the Greater Reality.

This is the shaman's way of life. This is how the Lightning Rider was born.

I can attest to the inherent consciousness within the Lightning Rider because I have interacted with its spirit on countless occasions, during dreamtime, shamanic journeys, and while it formed before my eyes and resonated deeply with the eye of my heart.

But that is only my part of its story. Let's dig a little deeper and view the awesome power of Lightning and Thunder with the eyes of our hearts.

It begins with energy, frequency, and vibration.

Though certainly not universally agreed upon by scientists nor those in other disciplines (including theologians) studying the origin of life on this planet, a strong argument continues to suggest that lightning provided the initial bursts of energy required to ignite and incite molecules into Earth's first living forms. The old ways of many elders have suggested this to be true for far longer. The Lightning Beings and the Thunderers dramatically herald the process, they say, by powerfully transmuting inert substance into life itself in a thunderous flash.

The legendary Lakota Sioux healer Black Elk recalled a similar scenario during his childhood encounter with the Greater Reality at a time when he was near death from sickness. During a vision with the eyes of his heart he beheld a view of what he called "the whole hoop of the world" from a mountaintop. Lightning and thunder flashed and rumbled around him, and he saw, in his words "in a sacred manner the shapes of all things in the spirit, and the shape of all shapes as they must live together like one being." A medicine man was attending to Black Elk

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during this time, and at one point the young boy's vision peaked as he saw the bay horse he was riding covered with lightning stripes and its mane was cloud. And Black Elk felt an onrush of energy so powerful that he said. "...when I breathed, my breath was lightning." *

That was the moment he was healed. He had seen the Greater Reality and the truth of the unity of all of life, accompanied throughout by the presence of the Lightning Beings and Thunderers. Life, death, destruction, creation.

In this everyday world, the Thunderers sound their hefty voices against the epic struggle of imbalance tumbling across the land by the mighty forces of heat, water and energetic momentum. This brew clashes and erupts in chaotic swells between Earth and Sky. Come the Lightning Beings. Brief, powerful and sometimes deadly, they discharge the dangerous imbalanced energy to quell the mighty storm and restore balance across the landscape.

So, yes, the violence sometimes sparks destruction. But creation too. Smell the sweetened air. Sense the onrushing calm. See the Earth renewed and freshened. Experience the balance.

About 100 lightning strikes hit somewhere on the Earth **every second** of every day, thus igniting an immense power generator that resonates as a standing wave of frequencies in the range of 7.3 Hz around and through the Earth and every living being. Science refers to this as the Schumann Resonance, but shamans—who predate empirical, quantitative science by tens of thousands of years—know it as Mother Earth's heartbeat. And yes, we resonate at the same 7.3Hz rate when in shamanic ceremony. And so do our drums.

This—science, heart, Spirit—all come together during a shamanic healing ceremony when the intentioned healer joins with drum as one to intervene in the dark interstitial spaces between someone who suffers and the cause of the suffering. The aim of course is to restore balance.

The Lightning Rider Drum knows this Truth, was a chosen one to undergo the transmutational power of light. It endured the darkness, was then transformed and now heralds the same brilliant flash of unification when joined with a shaman in healing ceremony.

Energy, frequency, vibration. The wheel turns. That's the story of all lightning drums, including the Lightning Rider Drum.

I never know who a lightning drum is made for. That is a secret between Spirit and the person who will eventually work with it. If this resonates with you, though, I invite you to open the eyes of your heart while viewing this powerful helper drum. Perhaps you will discover that you have been led here in search of a drum capable of serving as a powerful guide and helper to join you in your healing mission.

Meantime, I wish you great blessings. May you step into the fullness of the Light that you are.

Aho & Namaste.

Notes

*Quotes from the book, Black Elk Speaks, by John G. Neihardt, University of Nebraska Press, 1932 ISBN: 0-8032-1309-3

For more information about Bob's extensive use of lightning wood and copper in his shamanic drums, please read the free download articles found here:

<https://www.naturalshamandrums.com/shamanic-downloads-1>



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