

Berimbau

by Quebra Madeira



www.berimbau.us

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About This Manual

This manual contains important information on operating your instrument correctly and safely. Please take some time and read this manual to familiarize yourself with the features of this berimbau and to make the full advantage of its use.

Warnings



This symbol is intended to alert the user of important operating and service instructions in the literature accompanying the product.

We reserve the right to make some changes and improvements in design and construction of the berimbau if they do not significantly change product characteristics.

Introduction

Thank you for purchasing berimbau from www.berimbau.us! We are proud to introduce Berimbau by Quebra Madeira to you. This musical instrument is designed thoughtfully to be intensely used and make your berimbau practice convenient and enjoyable.

Unpacking

Carefully open the shipping carton and check for any noticeable damage. Every berimbau is tested and inspected before leaving the facility and should arrive in perfect condition. If found to be damaged or any parts missing, notify the shipping company immediately. Only consignee may institute a claim with the carrier for damage incurred during shipping. Be sure to save the carton and packing materials for the carrier's inspection.

Item Check List

1. Verga (berimbau stick)
2. Arame (string)
3. Tuning head with 4 mounting screws
4. Baqueta (playing stick)
5. Dobrão (stone)
6. Cabaça (gourd resonator) – IF ORDERED

Customer Support

For more information about the berimbau use refer to the guidelines provided on our web site www.berimbau.us. With any additional questions, please email the Customer Service at mandingabg@gmail.com. Usually you will get a reply within 24 hours.

Nomenclature



Peg for arame installation
(see page 8)

Arame / String
(see pages 6 and 8)

Verga berimbau stick
(see page 6)

Baqueta / Playing stick
(see page 6)

Dobrão / Coin or stone

Tubarão pin / Berimbau handle
(see page 8)

Cabaça / Gourd resonator
(see page 5)

Sound bridge
(see page 8)

Tuning head
(see pages 5, 6, and 8)

Operation

Installing the Tuning Head and Arame

Tuning gear comes separately to avoid its damage during shipping and must be installed prior to using the instrument. Please use the mounting screws and screwdriver provided. Do not use power tools, as it may damage the tuning gear. To install the arame, please follow the instructions on page 8.

Installing the Cabaça

Unscrew the mounting nut, insert the cabaça on the pin, and screw the nut back until tight.



When the cabaça is taken off for storage, keep the nut screwed on the pin on your verga, and put on the protective cap to prevent damaging your carrying bag.

Stringing Up and Tuning

Once the arame is installed, stringing up the berimbau takes less than a minute. Just follow these easy steps.

1. To avoid overstressing the gear, first gently bend the verga by pushing with the knee in the middle region of verga.
2. Gently turn the tuning head peg to fix arame position. Do not apply too much torque to a tuning peg, but instead try to bend verga a little bit more if needed.
3. Check the sound. If it is too low, repeat steps 1-2, until the desirable tone is achieved. Keep in mind that verga has its flexibility limit, and may be broken when too much stress is applied. It also depends on surroundings temperature and humidity.
4. You may loosen the arame using tuning head to adjust the tone to fit into batarea orchestra.



Please do not overtighten the arame – you may break the tuning mechanism or verga. With age, berimbau may become more flexible but please avoid overexertion for a brand-new instrument.

Loosen the arame after each use when the instrument is left for storage.

Sharing the Berimbau

Always supervise your berimbau, especially if inexperienced adults or minors are using the instrument. Critical points are stringing up and tuning the berimbau.

Packing the Berimbau

Loosen the arame before packing the instrument. Use a special berimbau bag for its transportation (refer to p.10). To make it easier, place the berimbau into the bag having the end with the tuning head inserted last.

Instrument Maintenance

We have minimized the amount of the instrument maintenance and care as much as possible, so that you can be totally absorbed with playing your berimbau.

Cleaning the Verga and Baqueta

Played in outside rodas, berimbau easily gets soiled from capoeiristas' palms. Clean the verga and baqueta with dry cloth only. Do not use paint thinner, benzene or other organic solvents to clean the berimbau. Doing so may cause instrument damage or a health hazard.

Arame Cleaning

Sometimes arame needs cleaning after being exposed to wet conditions. Use super-fine sand paper to clean it from rust spots. If the rust is already deeply ingrained into arame, cleaning is purposeless – arame needs to be replaced.

Greasing the Tuning Head

Once a year you may need to lubricate the tuning head with a high-quality lithium-based gel grease or oil (for bearings). Please do not use generic products for greasing as it may damage the gear.



Storage and Transportation

Loosen the arame prior to transportation or when leaving the instrument in a storage place. It is not necessary to keep your berimbau in a bag while stored. There is also no need to take the arame or cabaça off unless you want to store them separately.

Leaving the instrument on a side



In the gym, do not hesitate to find a suitable place for your berimbau. It is a musical instrument, so put it on a table or chair instead of just placing it on the floor along the wall. Do not place clothes or other belongings on top, so that everybody is aware and won't sit or step on it. Don't rely on gravity leaving your berimbau standing against the wall – eventually it will fall.

Storage

Your berimbau is maximally protected from humidity and temperature fluctuations. Nevertheless, please avoid storing it in humid (bathroom) places or near heat producing devices (radiators, heat registers, stoves).

Significant temperature drops distort wooden parts, and humidity corrodes the arame and tuning gear and may also cause mold to grow inside the cabaça. Do not spill water or other liquids on the unit. The recommended conditions for berimbau storage are:

Humidity: 20-85% (non-condensing)

Temperature: 18-35°C / 65-95 F

Store the instrument in a safe place. Make sure that nothing lies or falls on your instrument. You may place it in a corner of your closet or hang it on a nail in the wall. The cabaça is the most fragile part of your berimbau, so please take special care of its storage. A drawer would be the most convenient place to keep it in.

Transportation

Please use the special bag for your berimbau when travelling. Do not leave the berimbau in a car under the hot sun or in freezing conditions – it will affect the varnish. Do not expose your berimbau to rain or snow.




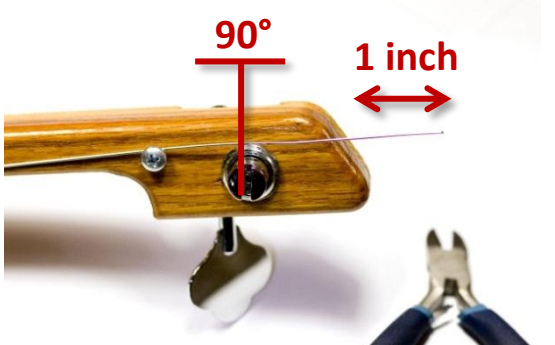


Please keep the berimbau in your carry-on baggage. Checked baggage may suffer violent shocks that could damage the instrument.

Your berimbau is designed to fit in the airplane compartment above the seats. You may also place the berimbau by the window unless your seat is by the emergency exit. Don't hesitate to ask the crew to find a suitable place for your berimbau. In any case, make sure to detach the cabaça and keep it in your carry-on bag under the seat.

Troubleshooting

Arame Replacement

There is nothing abnormal about breaking the arame. No matter how firm arame is, it will eventually break due to all the stresses it experiences in the musical instrument. With the berimbau with a tuning head, replacing arame will not take more than 5 minutes of your time. You will only need wire cutters.

	<p>Order arame at www.berimbau.us .</p> <p>Place arame loop over the peg, and then over the leather pad on the upper end of the verga.</p> <p>Run the arame through the sound conducting cord loop.</p>
	<p>Let the arame pass the tuning mechanism and, using wire cutters, cut it exceeding 1" behind the verga end.</p> <p>Warning: String has sharp edges. Wear safety goggles for protection when cutting and installing new arame.</p> <p>Turn the tuning peg until the central slit of tuning head is perpendicular to verga.</p>
	<p>Insert the arame into the hole in the center of the tuning head. Bend arame over the edge of tuning head towards the tuning peg.</p>
	<p>Bend the string towards and over the screw. Start rotating the tuning head to string up the berimbau.</p> <p>Roll the coils over the tuning head as tight as possible as it crucially influences the sound quality.</p>

Replacement Parts and Accessories

Refer to our website www.berimbau.us to purchase the replacement parts and accessories. Only use accessories specified by the manufacturer.



Cabaça

We have a variety of cabaças of different sizes, designs, and color solutions. Please notice that the berimbau with tuning head needs a cabaça with 1-hole fixture.

Cabaça choice has a major influence on your berimbau tone (Gunga/Media/Viola). It also determines its final outlook, so take the opportunity to order a custom designed cabaça.



Arame

63 inches (160 cm) long arame made from premium grade piano wire made in USA. Drawn to international standards from the world's finest steel. Exceptional tensile strength and resistance to elongation. Arame has a loop on one end for easy set up.



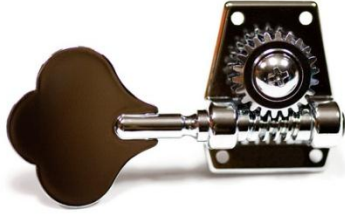
Baqueta

Baquetas are 15 ½" long and feature a plastic cap on one end to prevent its sliding from your hand during long rodas.



Dobrão

Traditional stone dobrão.



Tuning head

High-quality tuning head. Available in chrome finish. Comes with 4 mounting screws, bushing, and screwdriver for installation.



Mounting Nut

Zinc-steel mounting nut. Available in two options:

- self-lock mounting nut (shown on the left)
- usual mounting nut (shown on the right)



Berimbau bag

Berimbau bag is sewn to fit one standard 60" berimbau. It protects the instrument from the elements when carried outside. It also prevents scratches and is perfect for transporting your berimbau. Cabaça is to be carried separately.

It is made of wind- and waterproof nylon and has a flap on top to close the bag securely. Bag has a shoulder belt. Available in various colors.

