

## CAJON HISTORY

*The cajón is the most widely used Afro-Peruvian musical instrument since the late 18th century.*

*Slaves of west and central African origin in the Americas, specifically Peru, are considered to be the source of the cajón drum (or Box Drum).*

*The cajón was developed in coastal Peru during the early 19th century or before, where it is associated with several Afro-Peruvian genres. The instrument reached a peak in popularity by 1850, and by the end of the 19th century cajón players were experimenting with the design of the instrument by bending some of the planks in the cajón's body to alter the instrument's patterns of sound vibration.*

*Knowing that the cajón comes from slave musicians in the Spanish colonial Americas, there are two complementary origin theories for the instrument. It is possible that the drum is a direct descendant of a number of boxlike musical instruments from west and central Africa. These instruments were adapted by slaves from the Spanish shipping crates at their disposal. In Cuban port cities, they used Cod-FISH shipping CRATES. Elsewhere, small dresser drawers were used.*

*Another theory is that slaves simply used various boxes as musical instruments to combat contemporary Spanish colonial bans on music in predominantly African areas. In this way, cajons could easily be disguised as seats or stools, thus avoiding identification as musical instruments. In all likelihood it is a combination of these factors - African origins and Spanish suppression of slave music - that led to the cajón's creation.*

# Bonham Cajon

## BOX DRUM PERCUSSION



[www.BonhamCajon.com](http://www.BonhamCajon.com)

Mooresville, North Carolina

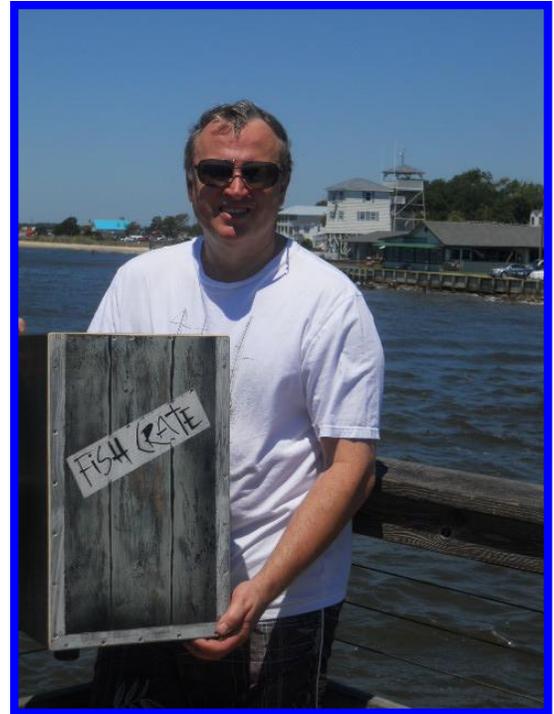
(704) 663-1287

[billy@bonhamcajon.com](mailto:billy@bonhamcajon.com)

## ABOUT THE BUILDER

*Billy Bonham is a native of Eastern NC , where the dirt is black and the music is soulful. His days working on tobacco farms along side migrant workers from Central America and the poorest rural areas of NC were his earliest influences. Billy was also heavily influenced by a music-loving family, including a father and aunt who played and sang in local honky-tonks in Wayne County, NC. Billy left Eastern NC and moved to Charlotte in 1984 where he studied and earned an engineering degree; later also earning his Professional Engineers license. By day, this engineer has specialized in manufacturing projects ranging from aerospace technologies, textiles, and electronics to robotic assembly. By night, Billy plays music with several musicians in and around the Lake Norman, NC area. His passion for music and his skills of design have come together with his most current project, the Bonham Cajon, which is a "box drum" derived from Afro-Peruvian slave ancestry. Out of his small workshop, Billy has turned out instruments for national touring acts, churches and youth bands, percussionists and musicians alike – all intrigued with the sound, portability and personalization of the Bonham Cajon. Billy is married and has 3 sons and currently resides in Mooresville NC where he continues to practice as an engineer and perform as an acoustic guitarist/vocalist for over 25 years. He has performed as an opening act for nationally recognized artists such as Crosby Stills and Nash and Chairman of the Board. He participates with the praise and worship team at his church where he has played Acoustic and Electric Guitar, Vocals, Cajon, and Bass. Contact information can be found at [www.Bonhamcajon.com](http://www.Bonhamcajon.com); 704-663-1287.*

**Also on FaceBook - Billy Bonham and or Bonham Cajon**



### **Acoustic Box Drum Fish Crate or Custom Designs**

*The FISH CRATE Cajon is a unique  
Design created and developed  
By Bonham Cajon*

#### **Includes:**

- "Snare**
- " (String Cajons are an Option)**
- " Jingle top right corner**
- " Heavy Duty Rubber Feet**
- " Dual sided drum (features on front side, dry or Afro-Peruvian tone on opposite side)**
- " Color selection**

**Custom art – upon request**

**We can ship anywhere  
PayPal Payment**