

# **Percussion 101**

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**Midwest Clinic  
2006**

**Presented by Jim Catalano**

# A Percussionist is....

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*A musician that plays it all:*

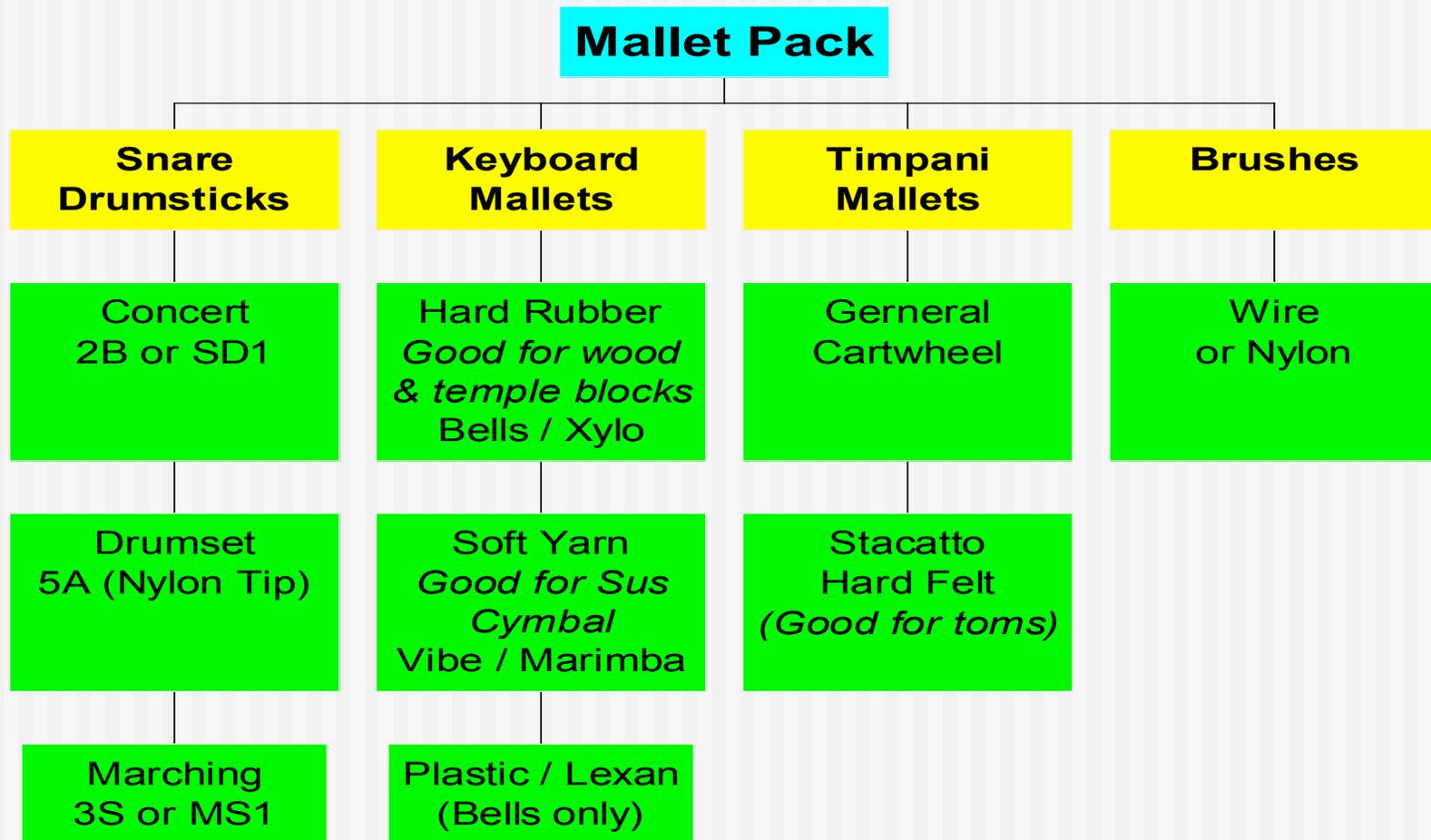
- Battery (Drums)
- Tuned Percussion
  - Timpani
  - Mallet Keyboard Instruments
- Accessory Percussion
- World Percussion

# Educational Percussion Kits

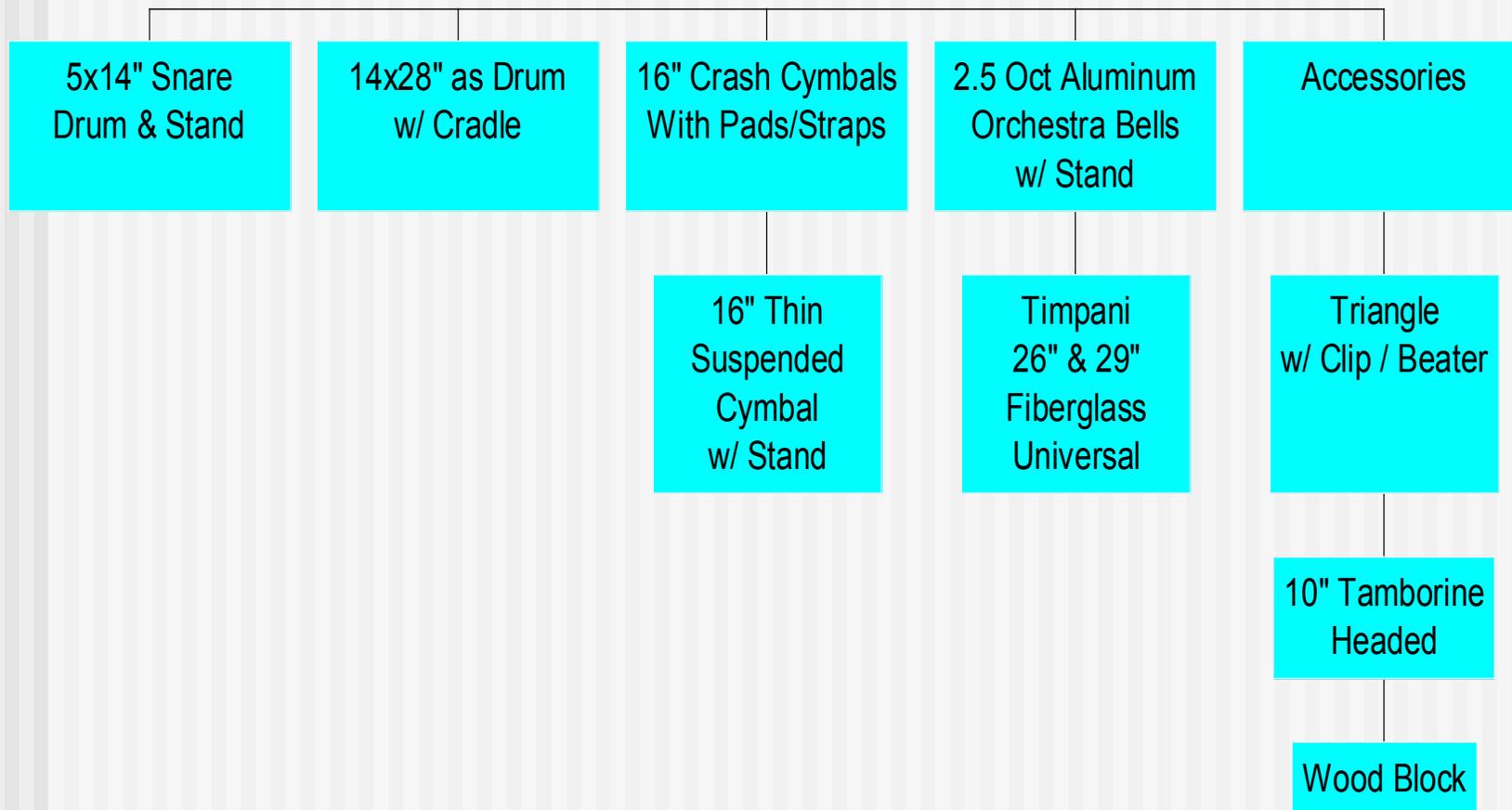
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- Overall Features
  - High quality (Durability / Function / Sound)
  - Competitively priced
  - Many price points
  - Wide variety of product
  - Parts availability from the USA
  - Long range dealer rental potential

# Percussion Mallet Pack



# Elementary Percussion



# High School Percussion



# Concert Bass Drum

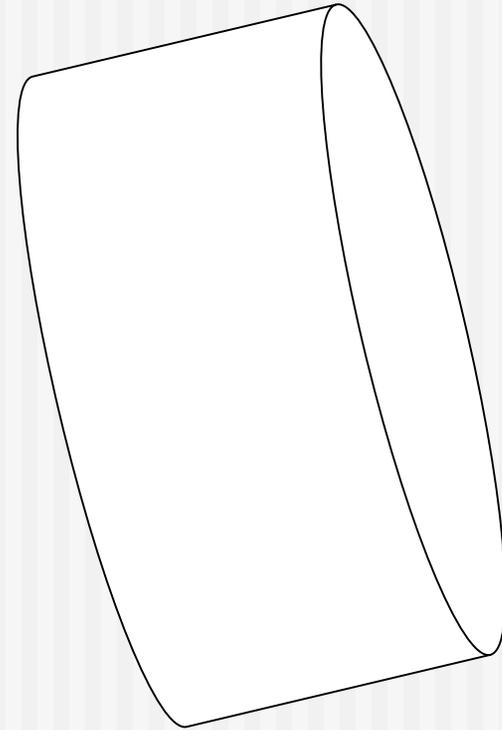


- Featuring:
- Suspended “All Terrain” Bass Drum Stand
- Made with square steel tubing.
- One size fits all
- Hardware St. Parts

# Bass Drum

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- Stand Type
  - Cradle
  - Suspension Ring
  - "All-Terrain" Bass Drum Stand
- Tilt of bass drum on stand
  - General playing – 5 – 10 degree tilt



# Bass Drum

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- Drumhead Selection
  - Ludwig Weather Master Smooth White
  - Fiberskyn III Drumheads (Remo)
    - Calf-like, Darker and dryer sound
  - Renaissance Drumheads (Remo)

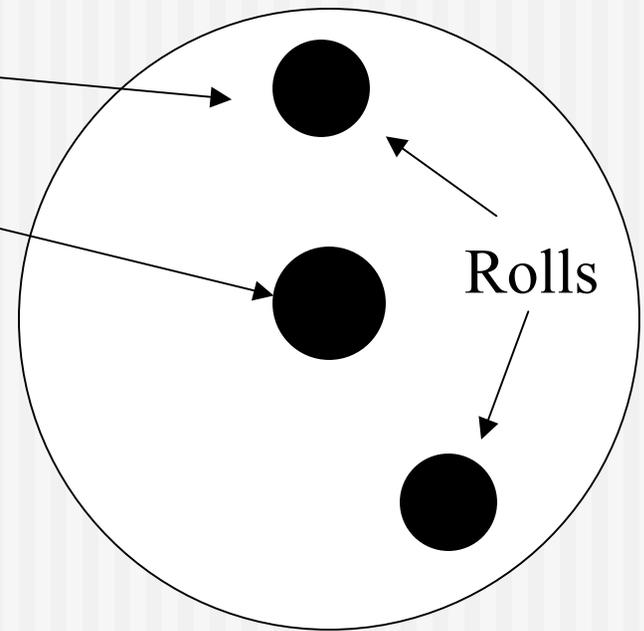
# Bass Drum

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- Tuning
  - Low fundamental – start loose and work tension up to clear low open sound
- Mallets
  - Soft (Special applications)
  - Medium (General playing)
  - Rollers (Pair)
- Anticipation (Watch the conductor)

# Bass Drum

- Striking area of the bass drum
  - General
  - Dry staccato
  - Soft / Rolls
- Muffling / Dampening
  - Left hand
  - Knee



# Hand Crash Cymbals

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- 18" or 20" Medium weight
- Cymbal cradle on stand
- Straps and pads
- Holding position
- Techniques
  - Glance
  - Choke
  - Open crash

# Suspended Cymbal

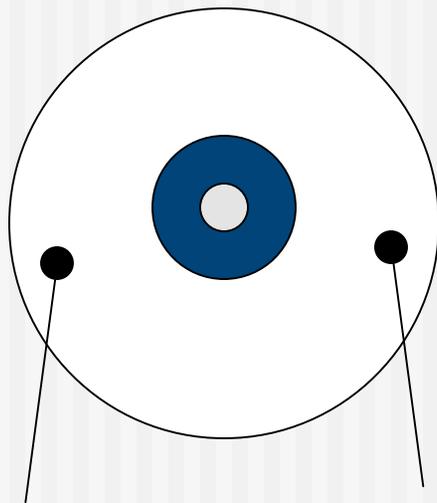
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- Light weight 16" or 18"
- Mallet Selection
  - soft to medium yarn or cord
  - No timpani mallets, No Drumsticks, (except ride sound)
- Striking areas
- Single stroke
- Roll technique
- Crescendo
- Anticipation
- Dampening

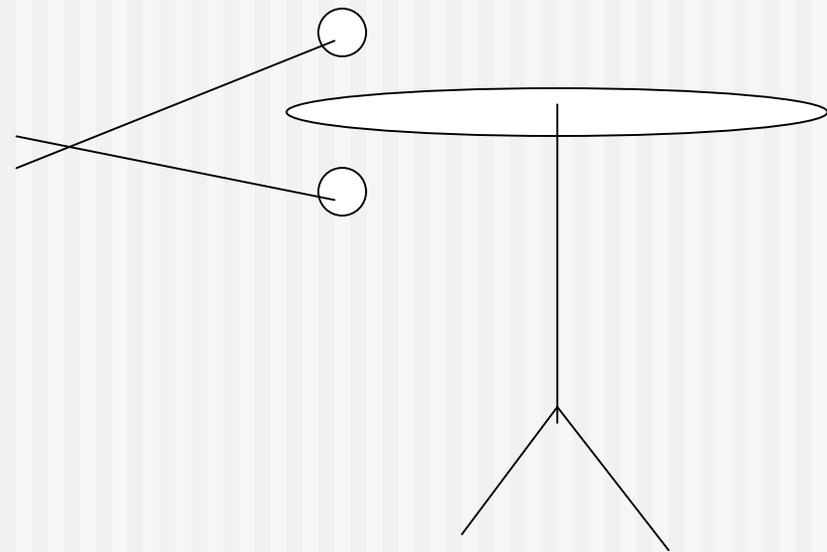
# Suspended Cymbal Rolls

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Two Hand Roll

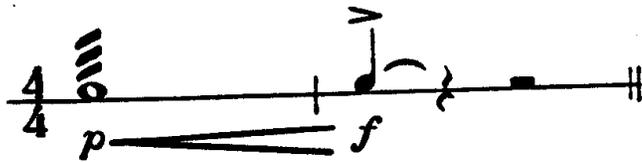


One Hand Roll

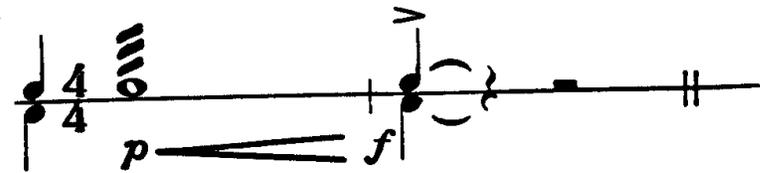


# Suspended Cymbal

written:



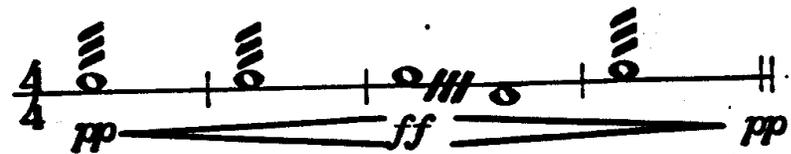
might be played:



written:



might be played:

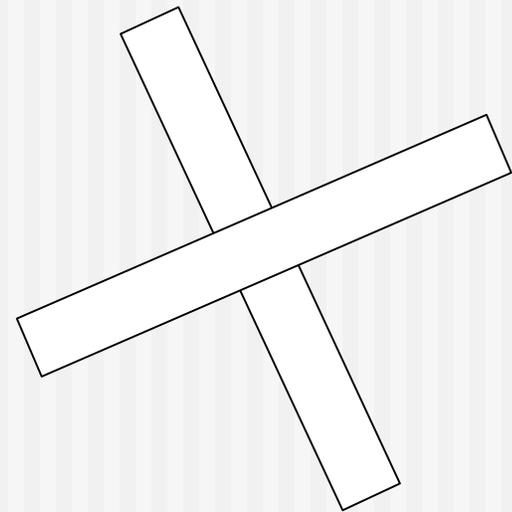


# Finger Cymbals

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- Quality of sound
  - Zildjian, Sabian,
- Holding style
- Striking technique
  - 90 degree angle
- Dampening
  - Body
  - Fingers

Strike at right angles



Hold high for projection

# Tambourine

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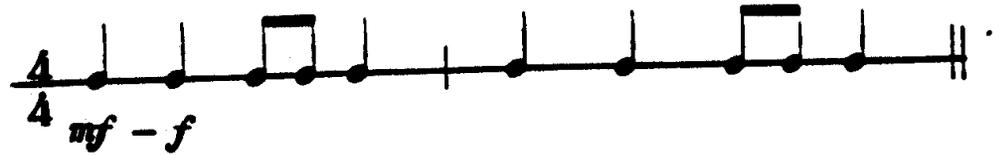
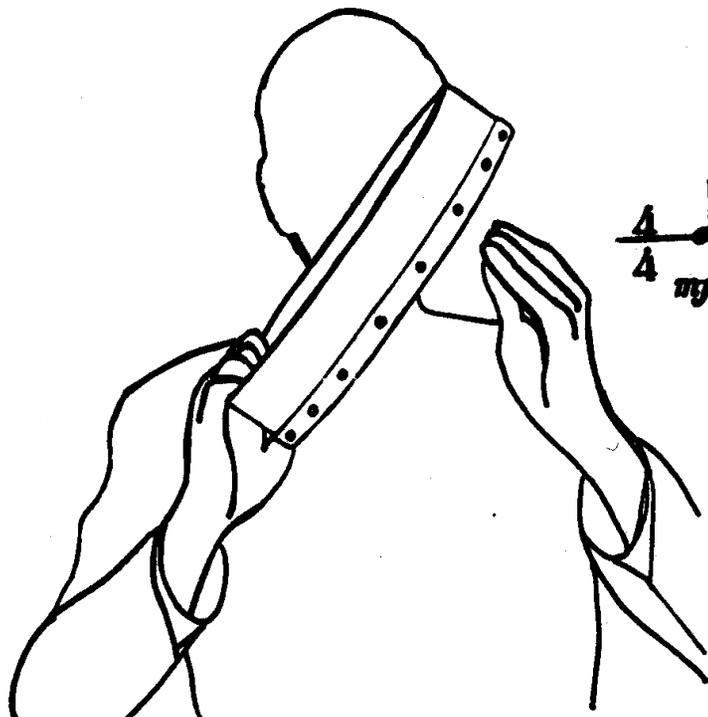
- Type
  - Headed (Calf or Goat Skin)
  - Headless
- Jingles
  - Single Row
  - Double Row
- Jingle Material
  - Brass, Copper, Silver, Combination, Metal

# Tambourine

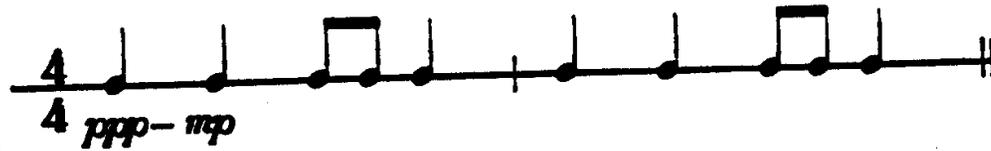
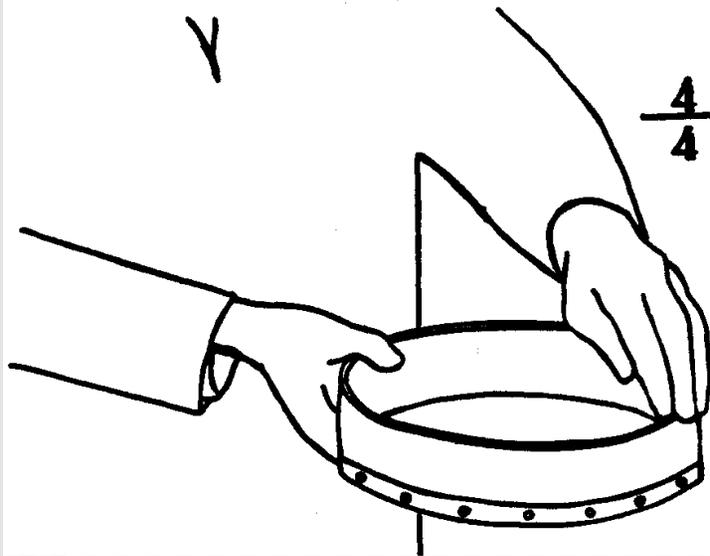
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- Technique
  - Avoid extraneous jingle sounds
  - Shake roll
  - Crescendo roll
  - Thumb roll
  - Knee / Fist
  - Fingers with one hand
  - Fingers with two hands, Tambourine on knee

# Slow / Loud Technique



# Slow / Soft Technique



# Fast / Loud Technique



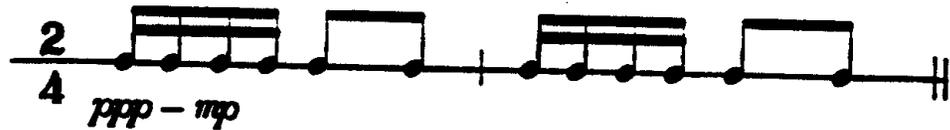
K = Knee  
H = L.H.

$\frac{2}{4}$  *mf - ff*

K H K H K K K H K H K K

The illustration shows a person from the waist down, sitting on a stool. Their hands are positioned to strike a drum that is resting on their knees. The drum is held between the person's legs. The musical notation is a single staff in 2/4 time, starting with a dynamic marking of *mf - ff*. The notation consists of two measures. The first measure contains six notes: a quarter note labeled 'K', an eighth note labeled 'H', a quarter note labeled 'K', an eighth note labeled 'H', a quarter note labeled 'K', and a quarter note labeled 'K'. The second measure contains six notes: a quarter note labeled 'K', an eighth note labeled 'H', a quarter note labeled 'K', an eighth note labeled 'H', a quarter note labeled 'K', and a quarter note labeled 'K'. A double bar line is placed after the second measure.

# Fast / Soft Technique



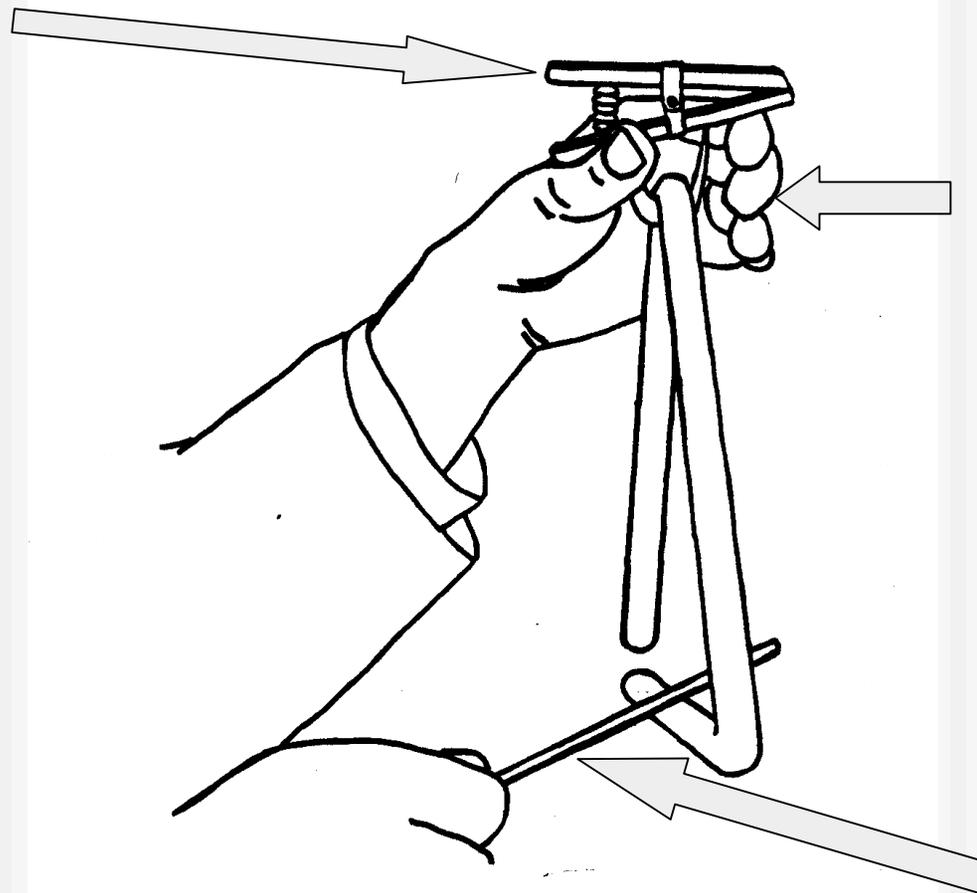
# Triangle

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- Product
  - 4", 6" or 8" Triangle
  - Beaters – Variety of diameters & weights
  - Triangle Clip
  - Makers: (Abel, Grover, Per Del, Black Swamp)
- Holding position
  - On stand
  - In hand

# Triangle Holding Position

Triangle Clip



C Position  
Of Hand

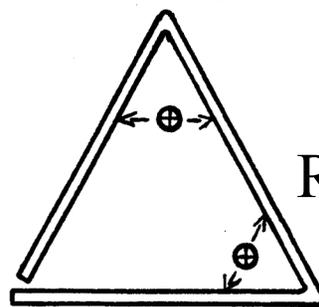
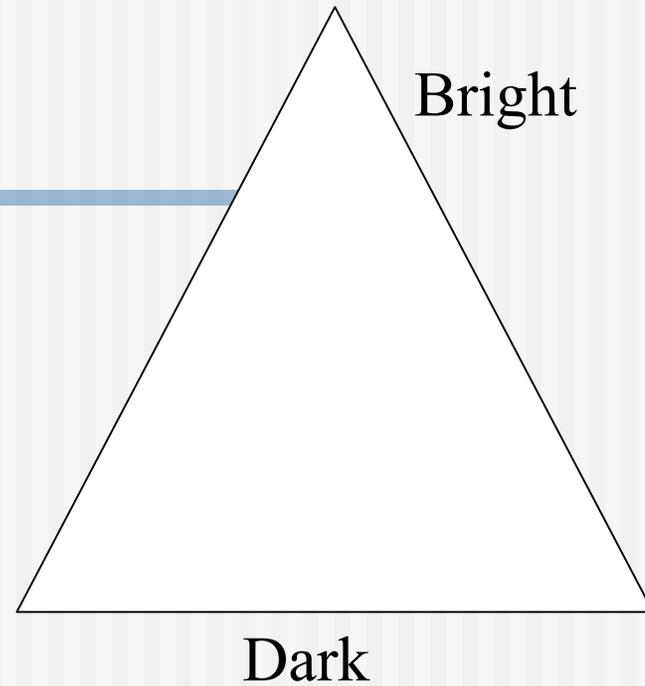
Hold high  
maximum  
projection

Little Fingers  
Used to  
Muffle

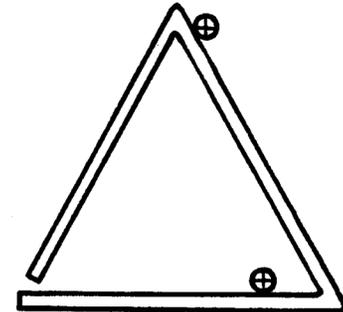
Striker

# Triangle

- Striking area
  - Dark sound
  - Bright sound
- Single strokes
- Rolls
  - One hand
  - Two hand
- Muffling

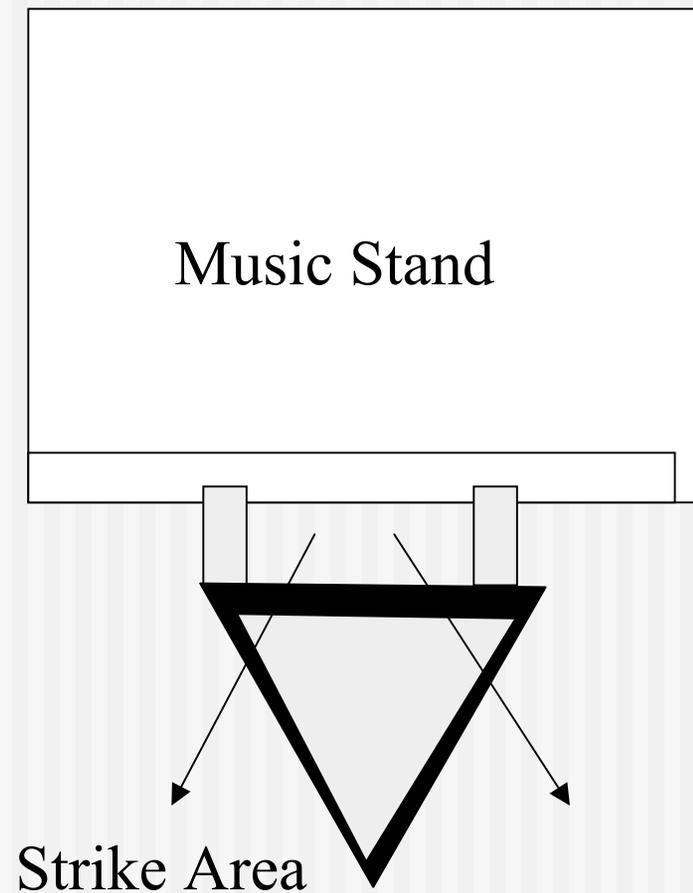


Rolls



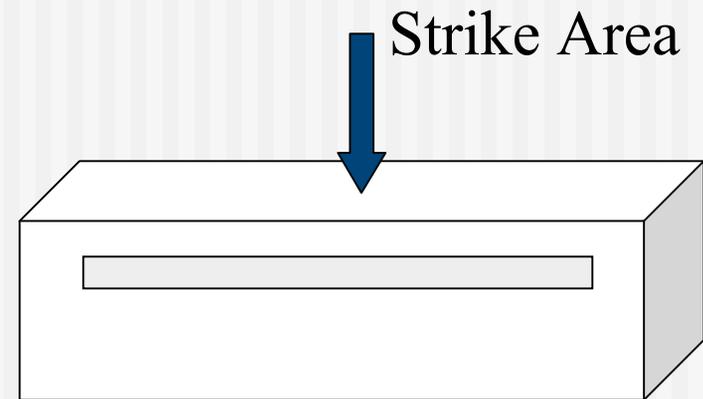
# Triangle on Music Stand

- Two Beater technique
- Intricate Rhythms
- Fast Rhythms
- Rolls
  
- Muffling
  - Fingers



# Wood Blocks

- Wood Block
  - Holding position
    - Hand
      - One Hand
    - Trap Table
      - Two Hands
  - Med to Hard Rubber Mallet
  - Striking area



Cup Hand Underneath  
or place on soft padded  
towel or pad to play  
with two mallets for  
fast passages.

# Claves / Maracas

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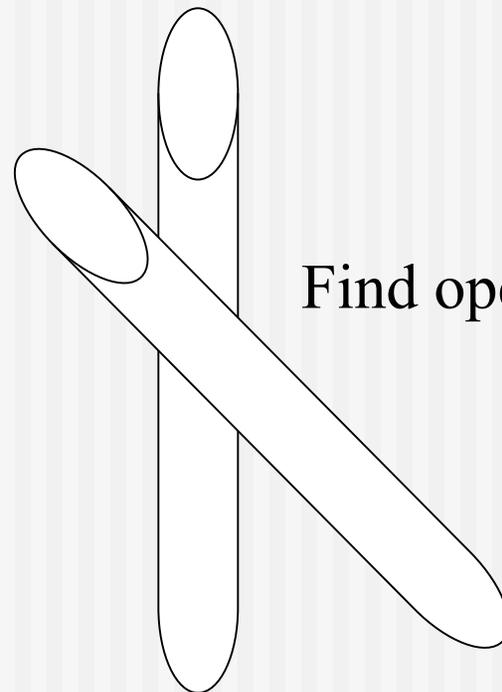
- Claves (Rosewood)

- Holding position
- Best sound production

- Maracas

- Technique
- Rolls

Cup bottom clave in hand



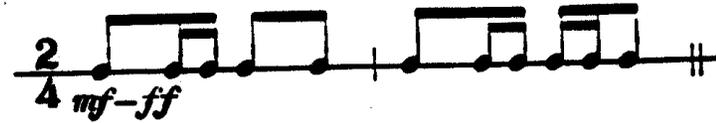
Find open tones

# Castanets

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- Types
  - Hand
  - Paddle
  - Machine
- Made from Plastic, Rosewood, Ebony
- Technique
  - Need Chair to rest Knee

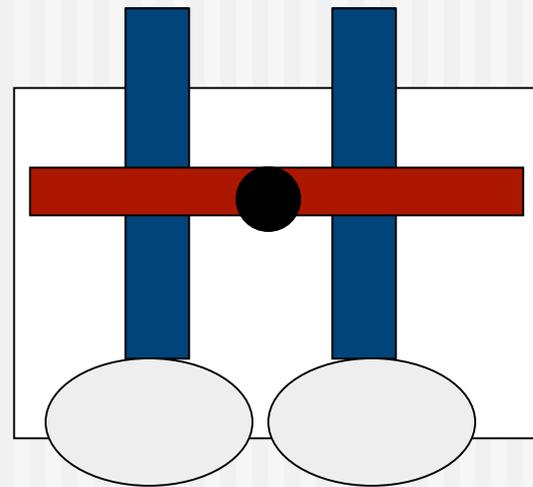
# Fast / Loud Technique



# Machine Castanets

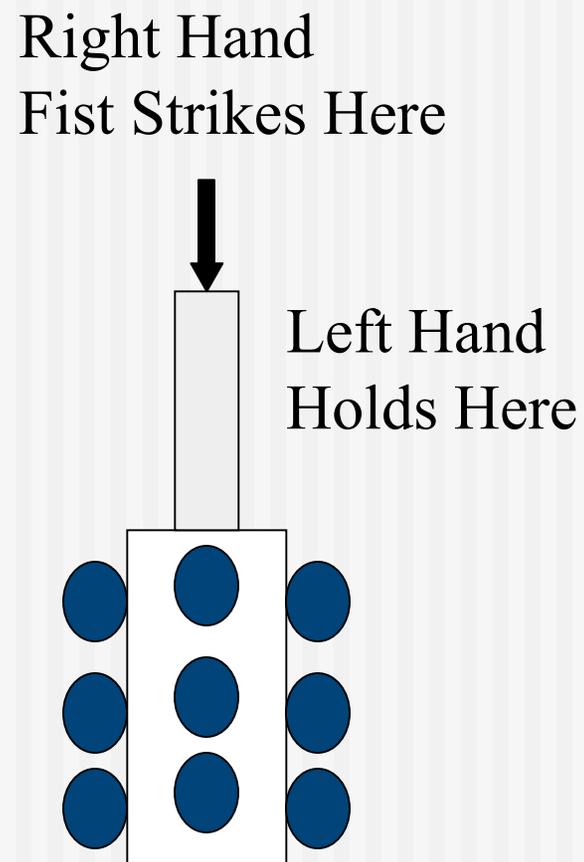
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- Castanet Pair Mounted on a Block
- Use two fingers grouped together to play more intricate, faster and accurate rhythms



# Sleigh Bells

- Hold in left hand with handle up and bells facing to the ground
- Strike the handle of the bells with fist of the right hand



# Percussion Accessories

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- Maracas
- Vibra-Slap
- Guiro
- Slap stick
- Cabasa / Afuce
- Shakers
- Agogo Bells

# Snare Drums

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# Snare Drum Diagram

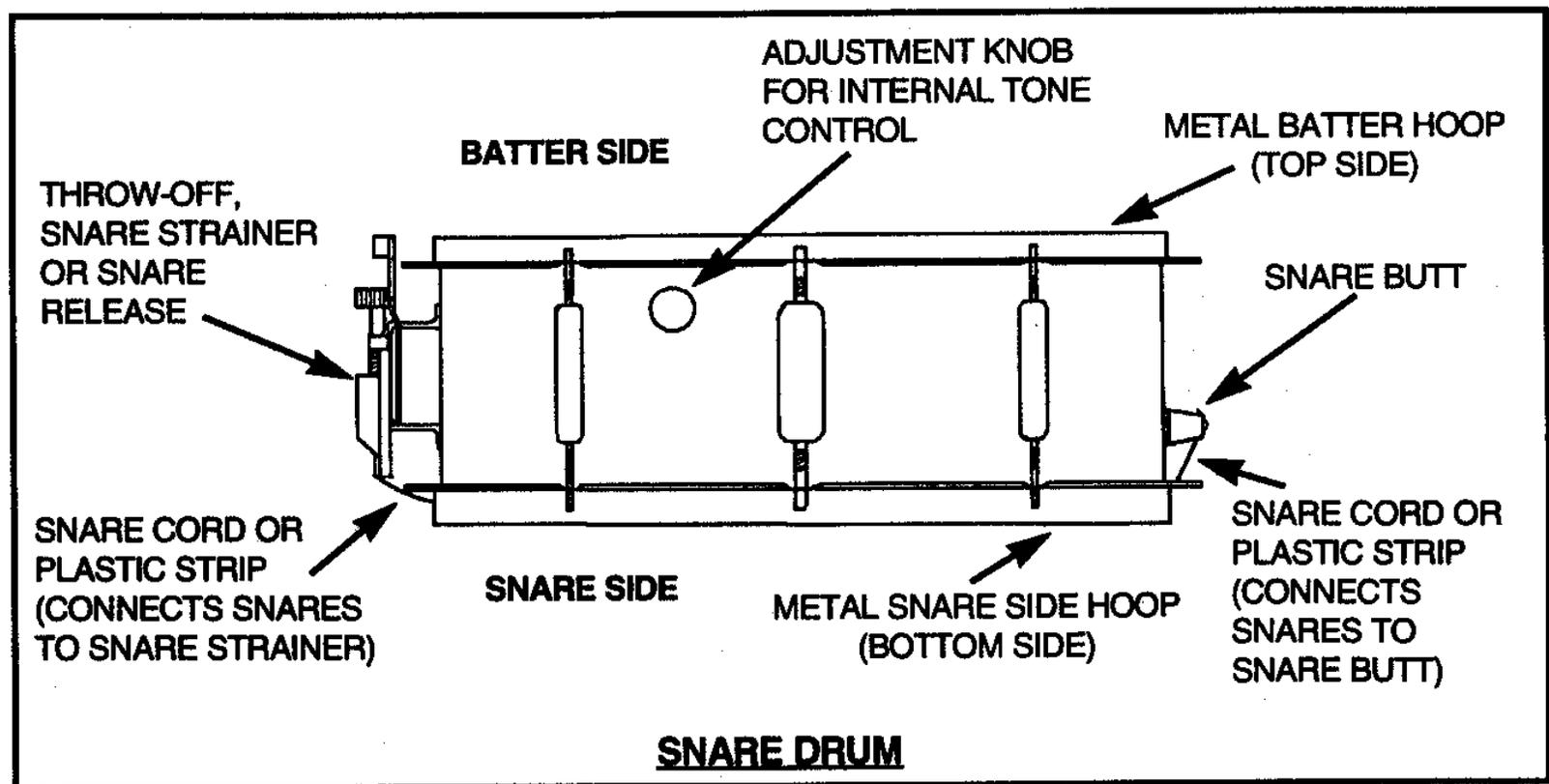
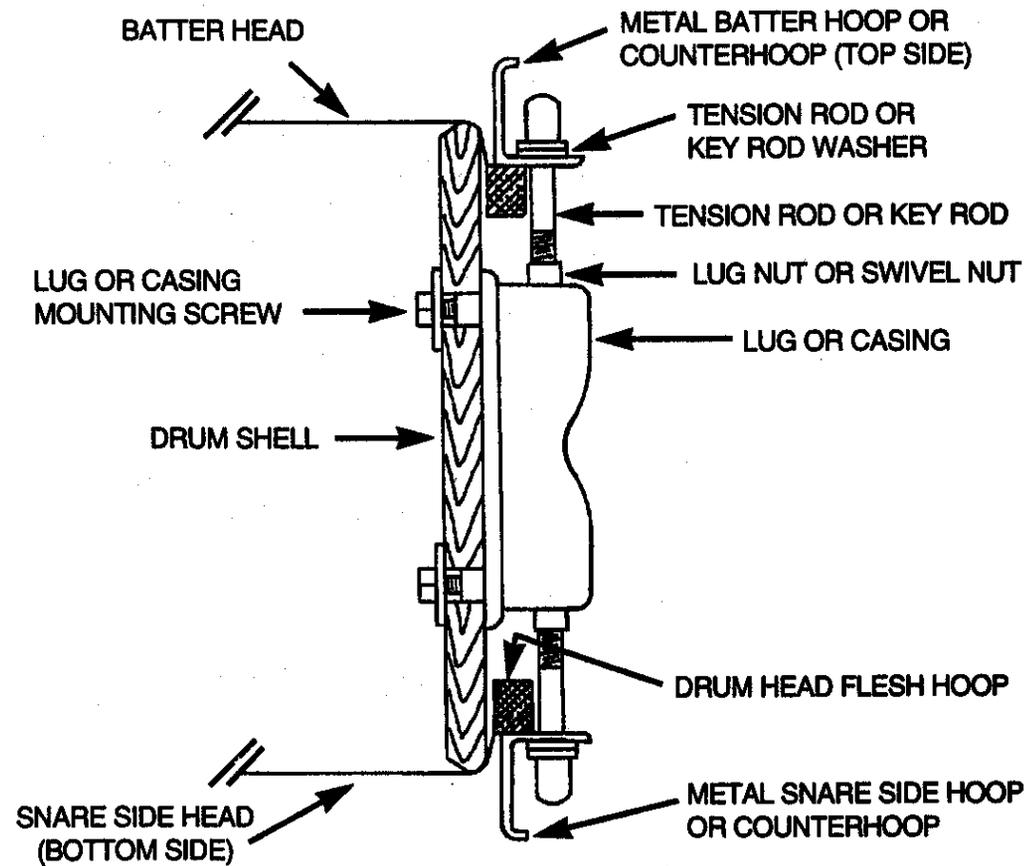


ILLUSTRATION 5

# Drum Mechanics



**TWIN LUG (DOUBLE END) ASSEMBLY FOR SNARE DRUM**

# Snare Drum, Stand, Heads

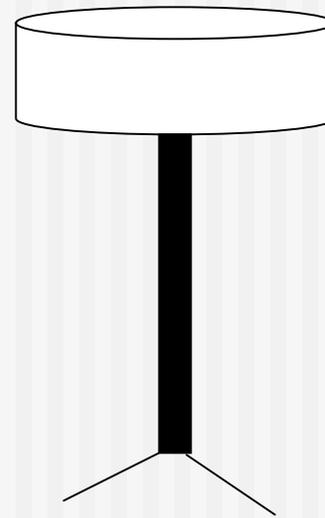
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- Drum (Metal or Wood Shell)
  - 3x13" Piccolo Snare Drum
  - 5x14" Snare Drum
  - 6.5x14" Snare Drum
- Snare Drum Stand
  - Extended height model, stable, basket clamp
- Heads
  - Medium weight coated white

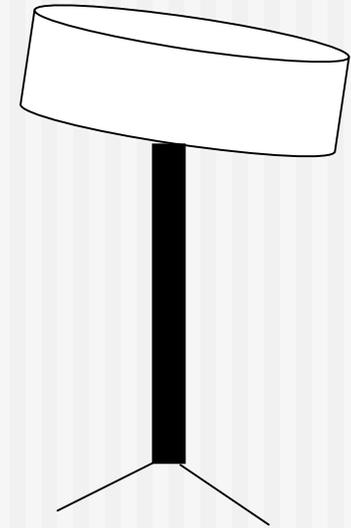
# Drum Playing Position

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- Position
  - Level / Flat
  - Angled
- Height
  - Waist High



Flat



Angle

# Snare Drum Heads, Sticks

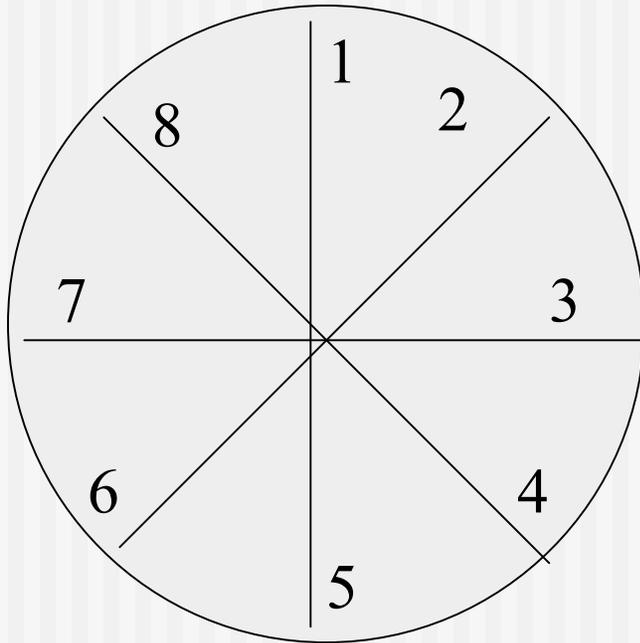
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- Head Changing
  - How to:
  - How often:
    - Watch for dents, stretching, clear spots
- Snare Strainer Tension
- Drumsticks (2B, SD1, Barrel shaped bead)
- Wire or Nylon Brushes

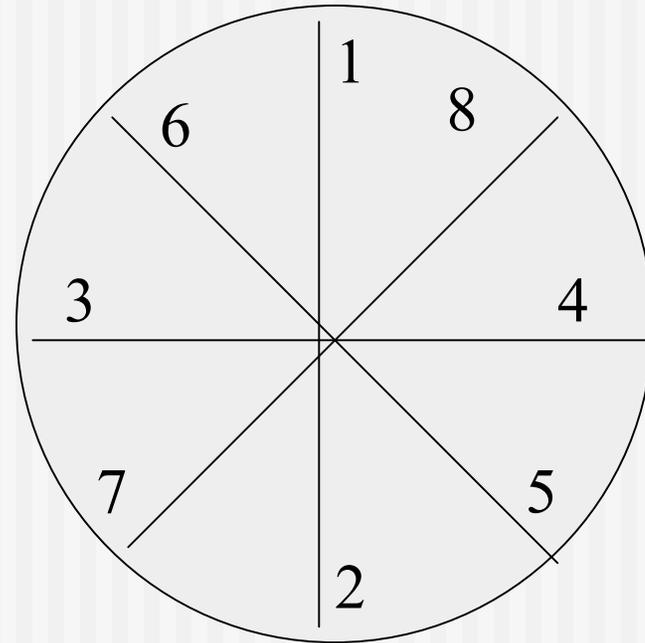
# Snare Drum Tuning

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Basic Tuning



Cross Tuning – Fine Adjustment



# Snare Drum Playing Area

- Striking Area

- Soft

- General

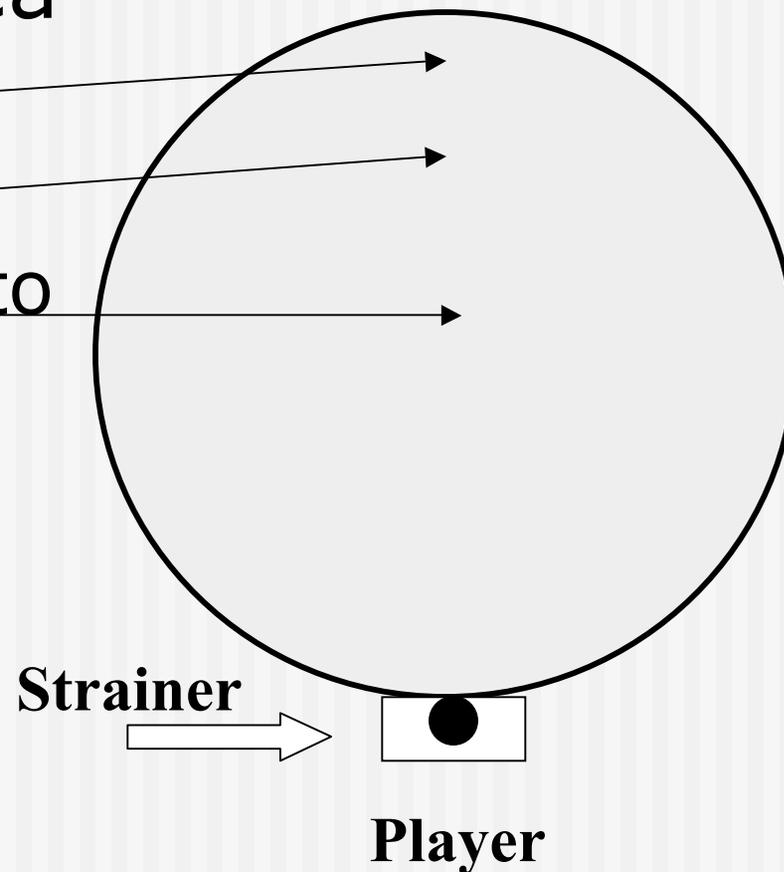
- Dry staccato

- Stroke

- Tap

- Rebound

- Bounce



# Snare Drum

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- Grip
  - Traditional – (Great for jazz, marching)
  - Matched – (Universal for all percussion)
- Drum should not be tilted (Not necessary)
- Posture
  - Back straight & feet slightly spread
  - Top of drum height at waist level
  - Arms comfortably at side

# Percussion Resources

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- **[www.pas.org](http://www.pas.org)**
- **[www.ludwig-drums.com](http://www.ludwig-drums.com)**

# Thank You

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Jim Catalano

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