

SNARE DRUM:

SETUP:

- Adjust the stand at belt level and is parallel to the ground.
- The *THROW OFF* should face you and the *STRAINER* should point toward the conductor.
- Check the *HEAD* is tight by pressing the center. If the drum is too “ringy” put your wallet or student ID on the head near the rim.

TECHNIQUE:

- *GERMAN* or *TRADITIONAL GRIP*, wrists flat.
- Play in the center of the head.

THINGS TO PRACTICE:

Flams, Ruffs, Drags, buzz rolls (5 stroke, 7 stroke, 9 stroke, long)



BASS DRUM:

SETUP:

- Angle the drum with the music stand in line with the conductor.
- Have something to put your foot on to use your knee to muffle.

TECHNIQUE:

- Right hand grips the mallet.
- Play just off the center with a circular motion.
- Left hand is used to muffle, usually finger tips near the rim lift for each note.
- Use two mallets for rolls (German grip).
- Use your knee if you need more muffle power.



PERCUSSION SET UP & TECHNIQUE CHEAT SHEET



CRASH CYMBALS:

SETUP:

- The *STRAPS* need to be tight.
- Don't use the *PADS*.
- If you have a *CYMBAL CRADLE*, use it.

TECHNIQUE:

- Left hand grips the strap tightly at the bell under the cymbal.
- Right hand grips the other strap and hold the cymbal directly over the left hand cymbal.
- Use the weight of the right hand cymbal to crash at a slight angel.
- Left hand doesn't move.
- *MUTE* by pressing the cymbals to your belly.



TRIANGLE:

SETUP:

- Use a triangle clip.
- Make sure the string goes from the front to the back and the loop is only big enough for 1 finger.
- Hang the triangle so the opening goes to the left.
- Hold the beater near the end use French Grip (Thumb up).
- Make a "C" shape with your left hand, set the clip on top.
- Hold the triangle up so you can see the conductor through the middle.

TECHNIQUE:

- Use the beater to hit the triangle near the bottom right corner (not in the middle).
- Use the weight of the beater to play, don't force it.
- Use a heavier beater for louder playing.
- Rolls are played in the corner of the triangle moving back and forth between 2 (not 3) sides.
- Mute by squeezing with the left hand.

TAMBOURINE:



SETUP:

- Use a large, round tambourine with a head.
- Make sure the head feels tight and has a high pitch.

TECHNIQUE:

- The left hand grips the tambourine with your thumb on top of the head.
- Dig your fingers in where the head meets the shell on the underside.
- Hold the tambourine up and out at shoulder height with a slight angle.
- The right hand will play rhythms left hand stays still.

DYNAMICS/ROLLS SECTION BELOW:

- *p* - Palm against the head, play with finger tips
- *mp* - finger tips
- *mf* - Knuckles
- *f* - knuckles and palm
- Rolls - Shake roll -start and end with a right hand attack, left hand will "turn the door knob"
- Finger/ thumb roll- use friction to create a vibration with the right hand finger or thumb against the head, stay near the edge.



SUSPENDED CYMBALS:

SETUP:

- Cymbal is mounted on a stand with felts at about belly to chest height.
- Use 2 yarn mallets (no felt mallets).
- Sometimes you may use a snare drum stick.

TECHNIQUE:

- Hold the mallets with German grip.
- Strike the cymbal at opposite sides, 9 and 3 on the clock.
- Use mostly wrist motion.
- You will play mostly rolls with crescendos, slower + smaller = soft, Faster + Bigger= loud.
- The tie at the end of the note means "let vibrate."