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Introduction

▶ (Course 1 - Lesson 1)

The Drum Channel Method:

Welcome to the Drum Channel Method! This innovative method teaches the How, What and Why of playing the drum set. Each course consists of five main topics: technique, vocabulary development and rudiments, notation reading and general music terms, independence, and repertoire development. These concepts are universal to the instrument and are needed to play effectively in all musical genres. Students develop and expand the critical fundamentals of sound quality, body motion, and hand and foot technique. Music notation is introduced and drilled in musical rudimental and orchestral exercises and snare drum Etudes. Students develop vocabulary on the drum set and hone their technique by practicing exercises designed to promote proper hand and body motions. As you progress through the method, bass drum and Hi-Hat exercises, ostinatos as well as hand and foot combinations are studied to continue the development of the interdependence between the legs while reinforcing the appropriate bass drum motions and sound quality.

Through this curriculum, students gain access to the concepts and material I have used throughout my 30 plus years as a player, clinician, private instructor and faculty member at various institutions in higher education such as The Los Angeles College of Music, Musician's Institute, Azusa Pacific University and Citrus College. The goal of the series is to create an inclusive carefully constructed curriculum that properly guides the student from the very beginnings of learning the instrument to being prepared to play professionally and further their study in higher education if they choose to. Additionally, it is an excellent curriculum for teachers to use with their students.

The Drum Channel method consists of 10 online courses containing over 250 video lessons, 60 playalongs and downloads. The curriculum is presented in books and is structured into 4 levels designed to aid in the development of the drummers understanding of the fundamentals and the creative process of playing the drum set. The Level 100 book is geared towards the beginner. The book for Level 200 introduces and develops intermediate concepts. Next, level 300's book further develops intermediate ideas. Finally, the level 400 book is designed to introduce and drill advanced

Grip

▶ (Course 1 - Lesson 3)

Drummers primarily use two grips to play the drum set. They are the match grip and traditional grip. It is the drummer's personal preference to decide which grip to use. The important thing is to learn where to hold the stick for the best balance and control.

Match Grip

It is important to have good control of the drum sticks at all times. To hold the drum sticks properly, put the sticks down and stand with your hands down at your side. You will notice there is a gap between your thumb and your index finger and your fingers curve.



Pick up a drum stick and let it rest in your hand without changing your gap or the curve of your fingers. Observe the stick is resting between the top pad of your thumb and the first crease of your index finger. This is perfect! Put the remaining three fingers around the stick and make sure it is resting on the first crease of each finger.

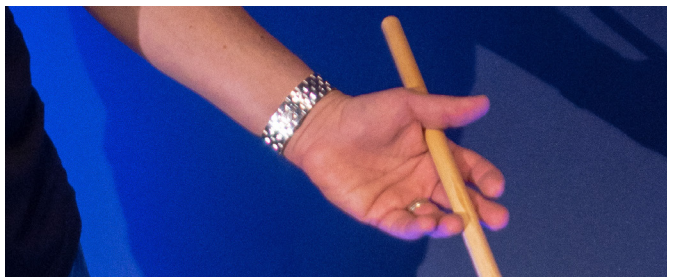


Bring your hands into playing position on the snare drum. The sticks should rest approximately one inch above the snare drum head and the tips will extend just above the center of the drum.

Traditional Grip

To learn the traditional grip, place the stick as far back under the thumb as possible. Next, position the stick between the knuckles of the thumb and the first crease of the index finger. You should apply minimum pressure on the stick at this point. The ideal grip position should be about four inches up from the butt end of the stick.

Now rest the shaft of the stick on the first crease of the ring finger (the one next to the pinkie) And place the index and middle finger on top of the stick without too much pressure.



Reading Exercise #8

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Leg Stroke Exercises 6, 5, 4, 3, 2

When playing two or more Leg Strokes in succession the heel hits the ground after each note. If the tempo of the notes is fast there will not be time for the heel to rest on the ground between the two notes. The preparation for the next stroke happens right away. Make sure to get the full rebound between each note. This will give a bigger sound and help place the notes in time since the rebound fills the space between the notes evenly.

♩ = 80-130

1. 2.

L L L L L L L L L L L L

3. 4. 5.

L L L L L L L L L L L L

Groove Exercises

🎵 (Course 1 - Lesson 16)

Now let's take all the reading and technique information we have learned and apply them to the drum set as grooves. Grooves, or drum beats, are the main function of a drummer in music. In the following exercises, the right hand will play eight notes on the hi-hat, the left hand will play the back-beat on beats two and four on the snare drum, and the bass drum will play common rhythms. Have fun!

1. 2.

3. 4.

5. 6.

Reading Exercise #7

In the following exercises, we are now combining single 8th notes and rests with 16th notes. Play slowly at first and continue counting out loud.

1. 1 + 2 + 3 + a 4 + 1 + a 2 + a 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + a 4 + a 1 e + a 2 + a 3 + a 4

2. 1 e + 2 e + 3 e + a 4 + 1 + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 + a 1 + a 2 + a 3 + a 4 + a 1 + a 2 + a 3 e + a 4

3. 1 e a 2 e + 3 + 4 e + 1 + 2 e + a 3 + a 4 1 e + 2 e + 3 e + a 4 e + a 1 2 + 3 e + 4 +

4. 1 e + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + 4 e + 1 + a 2 e + 3 + a 4 e + 1 + a 2 e + 3 e + 4 + a

5. 1 e a 2 e a 3 a 4 a 1 + 2 e + 3 e + a 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 e + a 4 e + 1 + a 2 e a 3 + 4 +

6. 1 a 2 a 3 a 4 + 1 e + a 2 a 3 4 e + a 1 + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 a 1 e + a 2 3 a 4 e +

7. 1 + a 2 e + a 3 + a 4 e + a 1 e + 2 + a 3 4 e + a 1 + a 2 + a 3 e + a 4 e + a 1 e + a 2 + a 3 + a 4 +

8. 1 + 2 e + 3 e + a 4 e + 1 e + 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 + 1 e + 2 e + 3 e + 4 e + a 1 + a 2 e + 3 e + 4

9. 1 e a 2 e + a 3 + a 4 + 1 + 2 e + a 3 e a 4 e a 1 a 2 a 3 e + 4 + a 1 + a 2 e + 3 e + 4 e a

Technique and Motion Exercises

▶ (Course 2 - Lesson 1)

The following exercises will build on the technique and motion exercises from the Drum Channel Method course #1. As a general rule; remember to focus on the motions that are notated and make sure there's a difference between the accented (loud) notes and the unaccented (soft) notes. The arrows are in place to help you understand when the stick comes up in preparation to play an accent and/or if the stick should stay down after an accent is played.

Single Hands

1. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$

2. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$

3. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$

4. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$

5. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$

6. $\frac{2}{4}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$ $\text{R} \text{L}$

Diddle Exercise

This is an excellent exercise to develop diddles. Play the entire exercise with hands alternating (RLRL) using the wrist pivot. Make sure you play all the notes even with no accents.

♩ = 70

The exercise is written in 4/4 time, indicated by the first staff. It consists of six staves of music, each containing two measures of eighth-note patterns. The first measure of each staff contains four groups of eighth notes, and the second measure contains four groups of eighth notes. The patterns are as follows:

- Staff 1: RLRL
- Staff 2: RLRL
- Staff 3: RLRL
- Staff 4: RLRL
- Staff 5: RLRL
- Staff 6: RLRL

Groove Exercises #1

🎵 (Course 2 - Lesson 10)

The following exercises introduce the very musical concept of ghost notes on the snare drum. Ghost notes are very soft notes played on the snare drum. They are notated as a regular note in parenthesis. Make sure to play them soft and in the right rhythm.

♩ = 80-100

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.