

THE DRUMMER'S LIFELINE

QUICK FIXES, HACKS, AND TIPS OF THE TRADE

BY PETER ERSKINE & DAVE BLACK



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ISBN-10: 1-4706-3899-1
ISBN-13: 978-1-4706-3899-3

Cover Illustration: Nick Beecher

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FOREWORD

Why drumset tips and tricks?

Fifty years of working as a professional drummer, for one. Collaborating with the best-selling author and drumming pedagogy expert Dave Black, for two. “Hacks,” or unconventional pieces of advice, are a popular, effective way to deliver bite-sized bits of information distilled from a combined-years-of-experience totaling nearly 100 years (just a few years less than the age of the drumset), for three. And, four, why not?

While some of what we’ve collected here can be found in other books, we wanted to compile as much of that useful information as possible into one resource, and include additional information that didn’t seem to fit into the standard drum book norm where basic technique, independence, styles, and so on, are discussed.

The additional info is, in other words, the really fun stuff.

Included throughout the book are incredibly practical, yet off-beat solutions to just about any drumming situation you will most likely encounter, whether you’re a working pro, a student, or a weekend drumming warrior who simply plays the drums for the fun of it.

Whatever your musical preference or style, and whatever your level of drumming experience or expertise, we promise that you’ll find answers to questions you’ve asked yourself before, or answers to questions that you didn’t even know existed!

(Note: First-person comments in the book are provided by Peter.)

Herein we present *The Drummer’s Lifeline*.

Peter Erskine & Dave Black

Los Angeles, 2017

Simply place your open hands directly above the brushes.



Then quickly (and simultaneously) move your hands downwards onto the end of the brush handles, so the brushes will “see-saw” off the drumhead surface and silently up into the air.



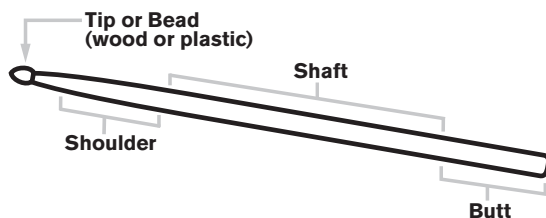
Just grab the rest of the brush handle, and you're good to go. Make a good noise when you drum; never try to make an unwanted noise!

CHOOSING DRUMSTICKS, BRUSHES, MALLETS, AND BASS DRUM BEATERS

Although a lot of information regarding stick, head, and beater selection can be found on the Internet, we wanted to include the following information/commentary based on our own experiences. In other words, don't believe everything you read on the Internet.

Drumsticks

A drumstick needs to feel good in your hand. It's the connection between you and your instrument. Drumsticks are most often made of wood (usually hickory, maple, or oak). Plastic, fiberglass, and metal have been used as well, but most drummers use wood sticks, and we recommend you do as well.



1. Drumsticks come in a variety of sizes and shapes, designed for different sounds and/or applications. A stick with a small tip is articulate, whereas one with a larger, rounder tip produces a broad, full sound. Too large of a tip usually results in a lousy cymbal sound.
2. Sticks are available with either a wood or nylon tip. Those with nylon tips are designed to produce a more articulate sound on the cymbals. When used on a drum, however, they sound almost identical to a wood-tipped stick.
3. "A" model sticks (originally designed for jazz playing) are smaller than "B" model sticks (designed for heavier use in jazz or concert bands), which are smaller than "S" model sticks (intended for street or marching use), which are smaller than "DC" sticks (designed for drum-corps use).