

The Drummer In You

The easiest way to learn how to play.....

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The Drummer In You

Over a period of 5 years or so at the school, I began to compile a series of drumbeats within the diagram system which I call the "Box Beat" system. The Box Beat system doesn't cover every style of drumming, but I truly believe that if you are looking for a way to learn many of the more popular rock and pop beats, you too will feel a sense of accomplishment and gratification.

With this in mind, I believe it is now time for you to go over to that drum set that has been collecting dust in your closet, garage or basement or maybe even purchase that used set of drums you've been wanting since you were a child and have some fun!

I dedicate this book to my parents, Betty and Max Deitch, who recognized my musical abilities when I was a young boy and did whatever they could to help nurture those abilities. To my wonderful wife and best friend, Denise, who understands first hand how children learn and who continues to make learning a musical instrument for young children exciting, challenging and enjoyable for many years. I also dedicate this book to my son Adam, who has taken his wonderful natural ability, knowledge and wisdom and ran with it. He is always creating and taking music and other musicians (including myself) to new and exciting levels. Most of all I dedicate this book to students at the Summit School in Upper Nyack, New York.

Bobby Deitch

Chapter One

BASIC SET-UP FOR A SUCCESSFUL DRUM PRACTICE SESSION

I think it is necessary to discuss how the drums should be set-up and arranged. Take a look at the picture below. Assuming you are a right-handed drummer, this is the way the kit should be arranged. If you are a lefty, simply arrange the drums the opposite way if you so choose.

Most drum kits contain a bass drum, snare drum, hi hat, assorted cymbals and various size tom toms. For our purposes, this book is only going to be dealing with the bass drum, snare drum and hi hat. This is because the book is designed to teach you how to play beats. Tom toms and cymbals are mainly used for what are known as drum fills and cymbal crashes.

PROPER SET-UP FOR THIS BOOK:



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THE FOLLOWING STEPS WILL HELP GUIDE YOU THROUGH PROPER DRUM SET-UP:

1. Sit down comfortably (ex. 1) on the drum seat, a bit near the front edge, making sure you feel balanced.



2. Place the snare drum directly in front of you (ex. 2), slightly between your knees at a comfortable height where you can easily hit the center of the drum. Setting up the snare drum too high will cause you to accidentally hit the metal rim of the drum. Angle the snare drum very slightly toward you.



Set-Up (continued)

3. After connecting the bass drum pedal to the bass drum, place the bass drum with the pedal in front of your right foot. Pull the bass drum toward you so that your right foot rests comfortably on the pedal (ex. 3).

Your right knee should be bent at an approximate 90 degree angle. Lift your heel slightly and use the "ball" (the area between your toes and arch) of your foot to press the pedal up and down. You will find that you need to lift your knee slightly to get the proper leverage to play the bass drum.

Don't let the "beater" (the round ball on the pedal that makes contact with the bass drum head) spring around freely. Press down on the pedal and hold it against the bass drum until you play the bass drum again. This will give you ample control of the bass drum pedal.

