

Drumset 101

(A Contemporary Approach to Playing the Drums)

Dave Black & Steve Houghton

Includes:

- **Groove Patterns**
- **Snare Drum & Bass Drum Independence**
- **Drum Fills in Context**
- **Written Charts for Every Tune**
- **A Play-Along CD with 40 Multi-Stylistic Tracks**

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About the CD



The CD contains most of the exercises and all of the tunes included in this book, so you may listen and play along with them. On many of the tracks, the drums will fade out so you can play along with the song on your own, and sometimes the drums will fade back in towards the end of the song. The CD tracks also serve as drum models to help strengthen time keeping, improve ensemble playing, clarify phrasing and expand your knowledge of styles.

choosing a drumset

to use with this book

If you have completed a beginning snare drum method (such as *Alfred's Drum Method*, Book 1), you are now ready to move on to *Drumset 101* and play a basic four-piece drumset. Although most standard sets include an additional mounted tom-tom, we have left it out of this book for the purpose of simplicity. Once you are comfortable with the material in this book, an additional mounted tom-tom may be added.

The Basic Drumset Setup

The basic four-piece drumset includes a bass drum, snare drum, mounted tom-tom, floor tom-tom, ride cymbal, crash cymbal, and hi-hat.

The drumset should be set up so that you are comfortable! When you sit on the drum throne, the drums and cymbals should be within easy reach, much like your plate, knife, and fork are within easy reach when you are sitting at the dinner table. So, let's "sit at the table."

The Throne

Let's start with the drum stool, called the *throne*. The height should allow a comfortable sitting position, so that your thighs are parallel to the floor or angled slightly downward. When you place your feet on the foot pedals, your legs should be slightly past a 45-degree angle.



The Snare Drum

The snare drum should be positioned about waist level. If the drum is too low, it will limit the use of your hands. When using the matched grip, the drum should be flat or slanted slightly downward and toward you. Avoid tension.



The Bass Drum

1. The bass drum is played with your right foot.
2. Play the bass drum using a *heel down* approach, which means keeping your foot flat on the foot board.
3. To play the bass-drum stroke, rock your foot until the beater strikes the head, then immediately return your foot to the up position. Do not leave the beater pressed up against the drumhead.



The Hi-Hat

1. The hi-hat is played with your left foot.
2. When at rest, the space between the cymbals should be about two inches.
3. When you press the foot pedal down, the cymbals come together.
4. When you play the hi-hat, use a rocking motion by stepping down on beats 2 & 4 (toe), and then rocking up on beats 1 & 3 (heel).



Practice Warm-up

Before playing along with the CD, practice the exercise alone until you are comfortable with it. Play it two times: the first time with drums, and the second without. Be sure to count!

♩ = 96 (Play 2 times)

H.H. (w/hand)

Count: 1 2 3 4 (etc.) B.D.

S.D.

Review: Measure Repeat Sign



This sign tells you to repeat the previous measure.

Trash Truck Track 6

Before playing along with the CD, practice the drum part alone until you are comfortable with it. Remember that the fills should not speed up or slow down. Play this song four times. You may use any of the fills on the previous page or, better yet, make up your own.

Medium rock (♩ = 120) (Play 4 times)

* End on beat 1 the fourth time through the song.

Alternate Hi-Hat Pattern: