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HAVE FUN PLAYING HAND DRUMS

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GENERAL HAND DRUM TIPS

We use many different sounds and words to speak. We can use our voices to mimic nearly any sound we hear. Think of using your drum the same way.

Drums have many different sounds—

LOUD *high*
 soft *muffled*
SHARP **low**

—and many sounds in between. Use your imagination to create different sounds on your drum.

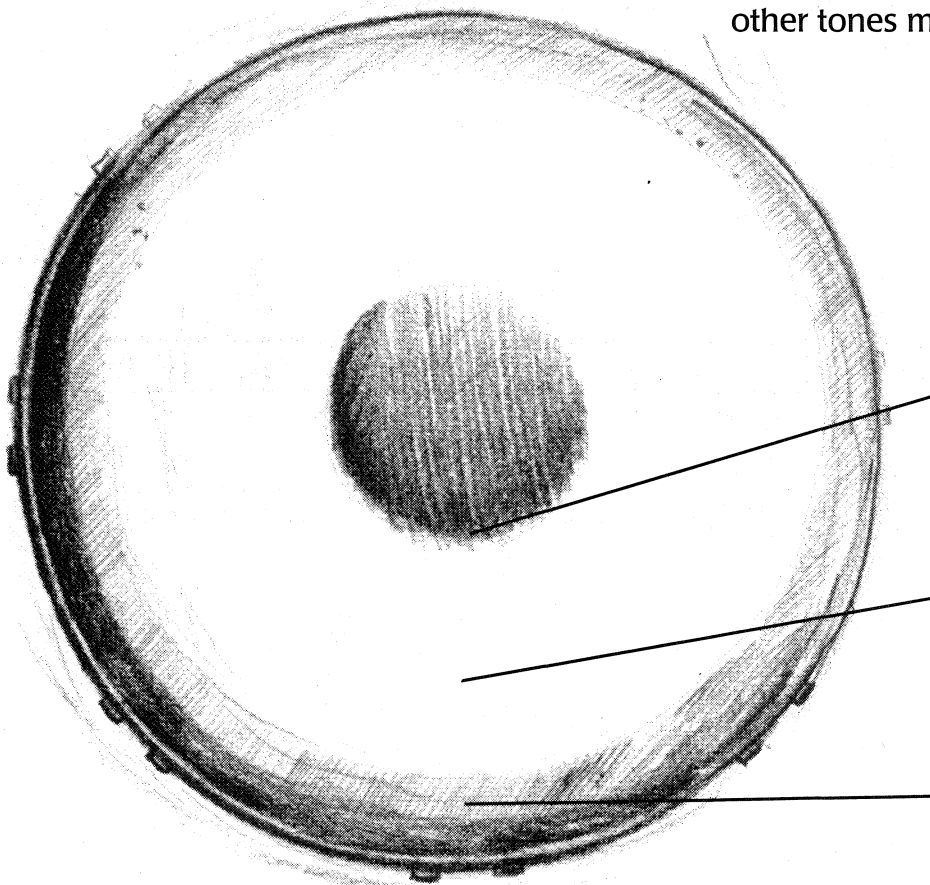
The drawing below shows the basic sounds of nearly all hand drums. Get familiar with the basic drum sounds so you'll have the most rewarding drumming experiences possible.

Some general tips for getting the best sound out of any hand drum.

1. Relax your wrists, hands, and fingers. Hold your fingers close together, not too tight but not too loose. Never hit your drum too hard—you don't want to hurt your hands or your drum.

2. Let your hands and fingers **rebound** off the drum head. Think of the quick strike it takes to ring a bell. Let your drum resonate as much as possible. If you don't let your hand rebound off the drumhead, the sound will be dull and flat.

3. Experiment with your drum to find its most natural sound—where it rings the most—and then practice getting the natural sound to be the same each time. Once you know the natural tone zone, you will be able to play other tones more easily.



COMMON HAND DRUM TONE ZONES

bass or muffled sound -
near the center of the
drum head

natural, open sound -
in between the center
and the edge of the
drum head

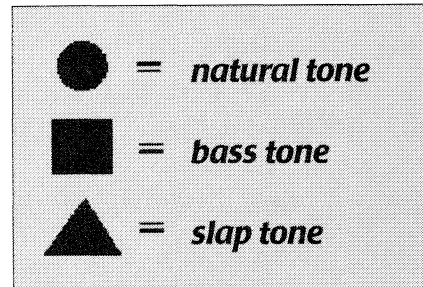
high sound -
on the edge of the
drum head

Rhythm Evolution

These five rhythms are all based around the same rhythm.

Hear how rhythm #2 sounds different from rhythm #1 when you add just one note. And then rhythm #3 sounds different from #2, and so on, just by adding one note at a time. This is an excellent way to understand rhythms and take solos that fit in well with the drumming.

Can you hear which extra notes make these rhythms different from one another?



12

Each rhythm is played four times in a row, rhythms 1-5 and then back, 5-1.

The bell plays rhythm #1 during all the rhythms.

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

1

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

2

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

3

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

4

1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and

5