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About the Online Media



The *Alfred's Kid's Drumset Course* video contains all the instruction in the book plus demonstrations of each song and exercise. Be sure to take full advantage of the method by following along with the book as you watch the video. Audio tracks of the examples in the book are also provided for listening and playing along.

Choosing a Drumset to Use with This Book

If you have completed *Alfred's Kid's Drum Course*, you are now ready to move on to *Alfred's Kid's Drumset Course* and play a basic four-piece drumset. Although most standard sets include an additional mounted tom-tom and a floor tom-tom, we have left them out of this book for the purpose of simplicity. Once you are comfortable with the material in this book, the floor tom-tom and an additional mounted tom-tom may be added. Avoid purchasing a set with overly large drum sizes.

The Basic Drumset Setup

The basic four-piece drumset includes a bass drum, snare drum, mounted tom-tom, floor tom-tom (optional with this book), 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 Tom-Tom

A mounted tom-tom should be positioned so there are no large gaps in height between the drumheads.



It should also be tilted slightly towards you so the drumstick clears the rim when striking the head. This will make the movements between the snare drum and the tom-tom smooth.

The Ride Cymbal

The ride cymbal should be placed to the right of your drumset. It should be positioned so that when you extend your arm (like for a handshake), the stick will strike two to four inches from the edge of the cymbal.



Tuning Your Drums

Proper tuning of your drums is important to achieve a good sound. There are many things to consider before tuning your drums. First, make sure your drumheads are in good shape. If they're not, replace them with new heads. Before selecting a particular type of drumhead, it is important to decide which style of music you will be playing (rock, jazz, country, R&B, etc.).

Drumheads are held in place by wooden or metal *counterhoops*, and are adjusted by threaded rods. Tightening or loosening these rods will alter the tension of the heads.

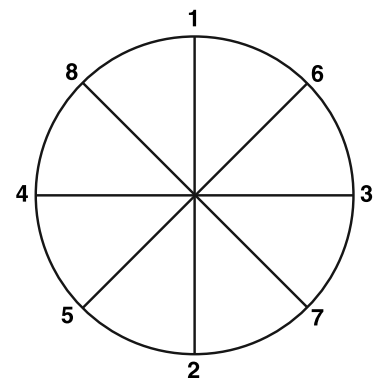
The *batter head* is the top head of the snare drum, the top head of a tom-tom, and the back head of the bass drum. It is best to start with the batter head when tuning your drums.

Tension your drums so they sound high to low as you move from the snare drum to the bass drum.

When tuning your drums, we recommend using the *cross-tension system* because it maintains even tensioning around the drum during the entire tuning process. To tune your drums using this method, start with tension rod number 1 and tighten each screw one twist of the wrist at a time until the drumhead feels firm. Be sure not to tension any lug more than the others. Tap the head with a drumstick about two inches in from each rod to be certain the pitch is consistent around the drum. If it is not, adjust individual tension rods as needed.

Cross-Tension System of Tensioning

For a more detailed reference guide on tuning, please refer to *How to Tune Your Drums* (Alfred item 20426).



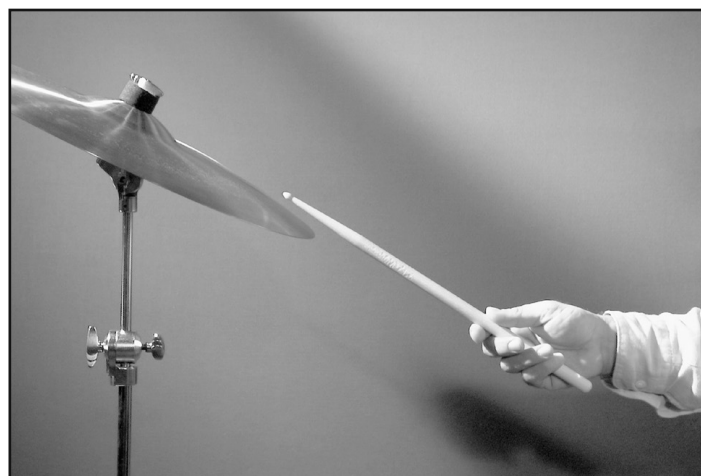
Striking the Drum

1. Hold the tip of the right stick above the drumhead.
2. Use the wrists (not the forearms) to lift the stick about four inches off the drum.
3. Drop the stick on the drum and let it return to the up position. It should strike near, but not on, the center of the drumhead.
4. Repeat, using the left stick.
5. Repeat, **slowly**, making sure that both sticks strike within the same beating area.



Striking the Ride Cymbal

1. First, extend your right hand as if you were going to shake hands.
2. Place the stick between your thumb and first finger (see matched grip).
3. Curve the other fingers around the stick (see matched grip).
4. Strike the cymbal about two inches from the edge.
5. Depending on the tempo and volume, the height of the stick producing the ride-cymbal stroke should be about four inches off the cymbal.



Rockin' 1812

Overture



Track 12

This song is played using a *half-time feel*, which means that the beat will feel half as fast as the original tempo. Before playing along with the recording, practice this song alone until you are comfortable with it.



Half-time rock (♩ = 120) (Play 2 times)

