

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FOR BAND

COMPREHENSIVE BAND METHOD

TIM LAUTZENHEISER
PAUL LAVENDER

JOHN HIGGINS
TOM C. RHODES

CHARLES MENGHINI
DON BIRSCHENK

Percussion consultant and editor
WILL RAPP

Band is... **M**aking music with a family of lifelong friends.

Understanding how commitment and dedication lead to success.

Sharing the joy and rewards of working together.

Individuals who develop self-confidence.

Creativity—expressing yourself in a universal language.

Band is... **MUSIC!**

Strike up the band,

Tim Lautzenheiser

Keyboard percussion instruments were known to exist around 3500 B.C. in the Orient. The xylophone is probably the oldest keyboard percussion instrument, while the vibraphone is a 20th century American invention.

The initial purpose of the glockenspiel, or orchestra bells, was to aid 13th century Dutch bell masters in tuning their tower carillons. The similar bell lyra was used by German armies after 1870. Today, keyboard percussion instruments are used in marching bands, concert bands and orchestras.

Saint-Saëns, Mahler, Tchaikovsky and Hovhanness are all important composers who have included keyboard percussion instruments in their writing.

Common keyboard percussion instruments include orchestra bells, xylophone, marimba, vibraphone and chimes. Clair Musser, Milt Jackson, Gary Burton and Lionel Hampton are famous keyboard percussionists.

HISTORY OF KEYBOARD PERCUSSION

ISBN 978-0-634-00327-1

Copyright © 2004 by HAL LEONARD CORPORATION
International Copyright Secured All Rights Reserved

 **HAL•LEONARD®**
CORPORATION
7777 W. BLUEMOUND RD. P.O. BOX 13819 MILWAUKEE, WI 53213

THE BASICS

Posture

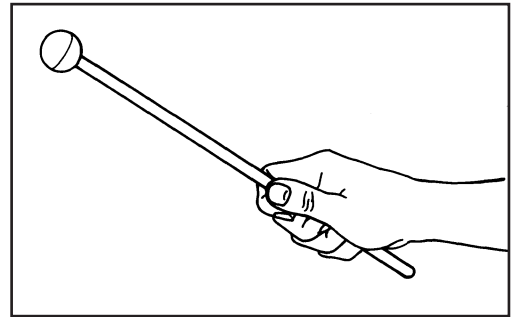
Stand near your instrument, and always keep your:

- Spine straight and tall
- Shoulders back and relaxed
- Feet flat on the floor

Matched Grip (A Natural Stick Position)

Every percussion instrument requiring sticks or mallets can be played with this basic grip. Both sticks or mallets are held exactly the same “matched” way.

- Place the mallets in front of you with the heads pointing forward.
- Extend your right hand as if shaking hands with someone.
- Pick up the right mallet with your thumb and index finger about 1/3 from the end of the stick.
- The curve of your index finger’s top knuckle and the thumb hold the mallet in place.
- Gently curve your other fingerings around the mallet.
- Check to be sure the mallet is cradled in the palm of your hand.
- Turn your hand palm-down to a comfortable resting position as shown:
- Follow the same procedure for your left hand.



Practice & Performance Position

- Stand in front of a flat surface about waist high.
- Place the heads of the sticks on the surface. Make sure that your wrists are not turned in or out.
- The mallets should create the outline of a slice of pie as you look at them.
- When playing your instrument, hold mallets 6-8 inches from the surface. Using your wrist, throw the mallet near the center of one key. Pull the sound out of the keys by bringing the mallet up after the strike.

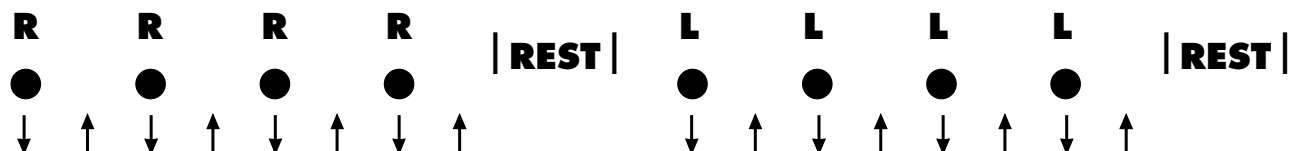
Sticking Work-Outs (Legato Stroke)

R = Right hand mallet

L = Left hand mallet

Find the largest key at the left end of the instrument. Play the following work-out keeping an even pulse. Start with your mallet in the up position. The down/up arrows indicate the speed of the mallet when playing *legato strokes*.

● = Strike near the center of the key.



Taking Care of Your Instruments

- Cover all percussion instruments when they are not being used.
- Put mallets away in a storage area. Keep the percussion section neat!
- Mallets are the only things which should be placed on your instrument. NEVER put or allow others to put objects on any percussion instrument.

Long Tone



As wind players learn Long Tones, keyboard percussionists use a special Legato Stroke.

1. THE FIRST NOTE

Play a legato stroke for each new note.

F

The Beat

The **beat** is the pulse of music, and like your heartbeat it should remain very steady. Counting aloud and foot-tapping help us maintain a steady beat. Tap your foot **down** on each number and **up** on each "&."

One beat = 1 &
 ↓ ↑

Notes And Rests

Notes tell us how high or low to play by their placement on a line or space of the music staff, and how long to play by their shape. **Rests** tell us to count silent beats.

Quarter Note = 1 beat

Quarter Rest = 1 silent beat

Alternate Sticking

A hand to hand sticking pattern usually beginning with the right hand.

2. COUNT AND PLAY - Alternate Sticking

3. A NEW NOTE

This note is "E \flat (E-flat)."

E \flat

4. TWO'S A TEAM

5. HEADING DOWN

D

Double Sticking

A pattern in which two consecutive notes are played with the same hand (RRLL, RRLL). This pattern may begin with either a double right or double left sticking.

6. MOVING ON UP - Double Sticking

Notes In Review

14. ROLLING ALONG Alternate Sticking Go to the next line. ▾

Double Bar ▾

Half Note **Half Rest**

15. RHYTHM RAP Clap the rhythm while counting and tapping. Repeat Sign ▾

Clap

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Combination Sticking A sticking pattern that combines both alternate and double sticking.

16. THE HALF COUNTS Combination Sticking

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

17. HOT CROSS BUNS

Right Hand Lead A sticking pattern that begins with the right hand and keeps the right hand on strong beats.

18. GO TELL AUNT RHODIE Right Hand Lead American Folk Song

19. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ Using the note names and rhythms below, draw your notes on the staff before playing.

Eb F Eb D Eb D C Bb C D Eb D Eb

Fermata



Hold the note (or rest) longer than normal.

27. REACHING HIGHER - New Note

G Fermata ▼

28. AU CLAIRE DE LA LUNE Left Hand Lead

French Folk Song

29. REMIX

THEORY

Harmony

Two or more notes played together. Each combination forms a *chord*.

30. LONDON BRIDGE - Duet

A English Folk Song

HISTORY

Austrian composer **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756–1791) was a child prodigy who started playing professionally at age six, and lived during the time of the American Revolution. Mozart’s music is melodic and imaginative. He wrote more than 600 compositions during his short life, including a piano piece based on the famous song, “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”

31. A MOZART MELODY Double Sticking

Adaptation

32. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ

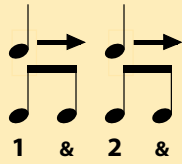
Draw these symbols where they belong and write in the note names before you play:



Eighth Notes



Each Eighth Note = 1/2 Beat
 2 Eighth Notes = 1 Beat
 Play on down and up taps.



Two or more Eighth Notes have a *beam* across the stems.



40. RHYTHM RAP *Clap the rhythm while counting and tapping.*

Clap

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

41. EIGHTH NOTE JAM

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & | 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

42. SKIP TO MY LOU *Alternate Sticking*

mf *sim.* American Folk Song

R L R L R L R L R *sim.* R L R L R L R

43. LONG, LONG AGO

p

44. OH, SUSANNA

f Stephen Collins Foster

HISTORY

Italian composer **Gioacchino Rossini** (1792–1868) began composing as a teenager and was very proficient on the piano, viola and horn. He wrote “William Tell” at age 37 as the last of his forty operas, and its familiar theme is still heard today on radio and television.

45. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS QUIZ — WILLIAM TELL

mf Gioacchino Rossini

f