

Getting Started Sampler

Hi

A little about me. I have been passionate about drums for as long as I can remember. As a young boy my parents gave me a pair of bongos one Christmas as they could see I was crazy about drums. They couldn't afford a set so they gave me the next best thing. I think they were tired of me bashing the furniture. So from then on I was really hooked.

Throughout my playing career I have always been asked to teach people. Long story short, what became a hobby turned into a career.

I have been teaching for many years, full time since 2000. I am currently teaching drums and percussion at two High Schools. The percussion groups are a great experience and I have had the thrill of four of my groups achieving awards.

I have achieved all my Grades in Drum Set with Rockschoool Trinity College of London

I have played in a wide variety of bands, rock, classic rock, jazz, swing, orchestral, church and country. Personal highlights have been support act for Split Enz, the N.Z Premier of the hit musical Copacabana, The Wizard of Oz, Cats and the rock musical Rent.

What ever style it is, I enjoy playing. To me drums are not only a great musical instrument but also a fascinating one. It has been a life long pursuit of mine learning to play them.

The philosophy behind my teaching is;

“To give drummers tools so they can play the way they want to play”

Drumming involves many things, coordination, timing, dexterity, ambidexterity and most importantly **control**. To me, **control** is a crucial aspect. Learning to control the hands and limbs in order to play drum patterns/grooves.

In essence my goal is to help students learn to master the drums. If we can learn and master certain things we can then hopefully play the way and the style we want to play

Here a few references

Drumming's going well and YES, I have found your book extremely helpful. Working my way through it, or just picking out different things to try, it's easy to follow and I wouldn't be without it! Thank you. With only having a few lessons, your book has given me continued incentive to learn new skills, experiment a little, and best of all, have fun drumming.

Joy

"A great first up tool kit for training drummers to do what other instrumentalists want. Good logical progressions with the right balance of essential rudimentary, theory, and practical skills that form the right foundation for playing at and beyond this level. The book is thoughtfully formatted with clear photos, friendly commentary and helpful hints along the way, and is spiral bound so it opens flat on a music stand. Contains just about all the basic rock grooves you'll need to make you compatible with the rest of the band but with skills to make your own. Also suitable for established drummers who want to start out or hone up on their music reading skills and add to their rhythmical musicianship".

David Smith

Keep on Rockin
Jack

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Maybe you haven't got time or can't get lessons from a teacher, well the book is written in a way that is easy to follow and with the music you can also 'hear' the exercises. It also has photos to help you get started

The exercises in my book are designed like building blocks. Once one lesson is grasped the next can be attained. Although any who have had lessons can move on to other lessons.

I sincerely believe that if you can learn most if not all of the exercises it will give you the ability to not only play the drums but also give you the ability to develop and learn more styles

While the lessons are not categorised into rock, funk etc most of them are used in contemporary music. The principles can be applied to all styles. For e.g. Independence is played in all styles of music

I do recommend using a metronome as this not only helps timing but also shows how much you are progressing

There are over 150 exercises and below is just a sample of what's covered.

The Drum Set (photos inc)

Holding the Sticks (photos inc)

Setting up the Kit (photos inc)

Reading drum music

Drum Set Notation

Rudiments

Quavers/Eighth Note Patterns

Quavers/Eighth Note off beat patterns

Quavers/Eighth Note 2 bar phrases

Open Hi hat

Semiquaver/Sixteenth Note patterns

Drum Fills

Quarter Note/Crotchet patterns

Independence on the snare and bass

Please note that all the exercises in this book are in 4/4 time signature

The next two pages are just a sample of some of the many exercises in the book. Feel free to download and enjoy

Here is a sample of just some of the exercises in Getting Started.

Eighth Note Patterns

Count 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Count 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Sixteenth Note Patterns

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Count 1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Count 1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

Fill using the snare

4 e & 4 & a

R L R R R L

Fill using the snare and toms

R L R L R L R L

3 e & a 4 e & a

Quarter Note Patterns

Count 1 2 3 4

Count 1 2 3 4

Independence using the Snare

Count 1 & 2 & a 3 e & 4 &

Count 1 & 2 & a 3 e & 4 &

Independence using the Bass

Count 1 & a 2 & 3 & 4 &

Count 1 & 2 & a 3 & 4 &