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December 2011

The World's #1 Drum Magazine

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JAZZ DRUMMING ESSENTIALS

FIVE FINGER
DEATH PUNCH'S
JEREMY SPENCER

GET PUBLISHED!
WRITE A GREAT METHOD BOOK

INFLUENCES:
DEEP PURPLE'S
IAN PAICE

BLONDIE'S CLEM BURKE

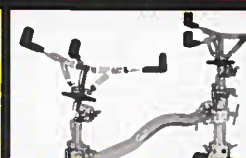
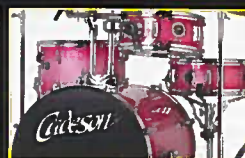
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25 Timeless Drum Books

What makes a great drum book? There's no single answer, as different books have been written to address a wide variety of styles and techniques. But judging by a recent poll in which *Modern Drummer* readers were asked to name their favorite volumes, a few characteristics stand out.

For starters, many of the books that have stood the test of time and are now considered classics have multiple applications. You can play just what's on the page and learn a lot, but you can also apply the exercises to different styles and musical situations. Another characteristic of a worthy drum book is its practicality. Good books are not just filled

with page after page of mechanical exercises that may or may not relate to what you would play on a gig; they offer usable material that develops musicality along with technical skills. All of the texts cited here fit those criteria.

We compiled the list with the help of information gathered from several sources: the *Modern Drummer* website, the MD Facebook page, and a poll of the 2011 MD Pro Panel. The books are separated into categories, but due to their versatility some of them could fit into more than one slot. Within each category, the entries are listed in order of their popularity, based on the number of votes each one received from all the sources combined.

General Technique



STICK CONTROL FOR THE SNARE DRUMMER
by George Lawrence Stone (Alfred)

This book was at the very top of the popularity list. For decades it has been used by drummers and percussionists of all genres to develop the hands as well as hand/foot coordination.



MASTER STUDIES
by Joe Morello (Modern Drummer Publications)

When Joe Morello was studying with George Lawrence Stone, he would create his own variations of the *Stick Control* patterns. *Master Studies* includes those exercises, along with material that Morello himself used to develop his formidable technique.

Rock/Funk Drumset



THE NEW BREED
by Gary Chester (Modern Drummer Publications)

Gary Chester was an in-demand New York studio drummer in the 1950s, '60s, and '70s. He created the exercises in this book so that his students would have the independence and coordination to play *anything* they encountered.



ADVANCED FUNK STUDIES
by Rick Latham (Latham Publications)

This book became an instant classic when it was first published in the early 1980s, and it's still relevant today for developing the more linear style of playing that's characteristic of the funk genre.



REALISTIC ROCK
by Carmine Appice (Alfred)

The title says it all. *Realistic Rock* is filled with practical, usable beats from a drummer who helped define the modern rock style.



GROOVE ALCHEMY
by Stanton Moore (Hudson Music)

Containing everything from historical funk beats to the latest patterns, this relatively new book/CD package has quickly earned its place among the classic instruction manuals.



THE COMMANDMENTS OF R&B DRUMMING
by Zoro (Alfred)

This in-depth historical collection of R&B grooves provides the foundation for soul, funk, and hip-hop drumming.



FUTURE SOUNDS
by David Garibaldi (Alfred)

Future Sounds helps drummers develop sophisticated coordination as well as dynamic control and groove awareness.



THE DRUMSET MUSICIAN
by Rod Morgenstein and Rick Mattingly (Hal Leonard)

A book/CD package that takes the reader from the simplest beat and fill patterns to how to apply them to a variety of song styles.

Jazz Drumset



ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR THE MODERN DRUMMER
by Jim Chapin (Alfred)

This is the legendary book that unlocked the secrets of "coordinated independence" as applied to jazz drumming. When *Advanced Techniques* was first published, many considered it unplayable; today it's taken for granted that an aspiring jazz drummer will master it.



THE ART OF BOP DRUMMING
by John Riley (Manhattan Music/Alfred)

Since its release in 1994, this book/CD package has established itself as essential in learning modern jazz from a technical as well as a philosophical standpoint. Many people who listed it also cited Riley's follow-up, *Beyond Bop Drumming*.



MODERN RUDIMENTAL SWING SOLOS
by Charley Wilcoxon (Ludwig Music)

One of the first books to apply rudiments to the swing style.

General Drumset Technique



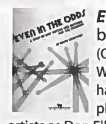
PATTERNS, VOLUME 1, 2, 3, 4
by Gary Chaffee (Alfred)

Drummers such as Steve Smith and Vinnie Colaiuta swear by Chaffee's approach to teaching drumset coordination and independence. Chaffee's *Linear Drumming* book also received quite a few votes.



4-WAY COORDINATION
by Marvin Dahlgren and Elliot Fine (Alfred)

This was one of the first books to help drummers develop coordination and independence between all four limbs, and its exercises are timeless.



EVEN IN THE ODDS
by Ralph Humphrey (C.L. Barnhouse)

Written by a drummer who has extensive experience playing odd times, with such artists as Don Ellis and Frank Zappa, *Even in the Odds* has helped countless players get comfortable with time signatures outside of 4/4.



DRUMSET ESSENTIALS, VOLUME 1
by Peter Erskine (Alfred)

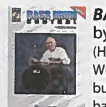
Erskine starts at the beginning with this very musical approach to the drumset.

Bass Drum



THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF DOUBLE BASS DRUMMING
by Bobby Rondinelli and Michael Lauren (Modern Drummer Publications)

With hundreds of warm-ups, beats, and fills, this is the most comprehensive double bass book on the market.



BASS DRUM CONTROL
by Colin Bailey (Hal Leonard)

Written for single bass drum but adaptable for double bass, this longtime favorite helps players develop the ability to play the bass drum fluently.

Brushes



THE SOUND OF BRUSHES
by Ed Thigpen (Alfred)

Considered by many to be the master of brush playing, Ed Thigpen authored this classic text—with accompanying audio tracks—which unlocks the secrets of what can be an elusive subject. (Note: The legendary *Brush Artistry* by Philly Joe Jones was also cited often, but it's not officially on the list because it has been out of print for so many years.)

MORE METHOD

MD Pro Panelist **Paul Wertico** discusses some of his favorite drumming method books.

Over the years I've accumulated quite a vast library of drum books, ranging from early basic fundamental method books to ones dealing with the latest specific styles and techniques. My favorites usually help to expand both one's technique and one's conception, but with an open-ended approach, so that all drummers using the book have the chance to apply its exercises to fit their own musical needs and concepts. In other words, books that make you think!

Besides the obvious classic must-haves, such as George Lawrence Stone's *Stick Control* and Ted Reed's *Syncopation*, I'd like to share with you a few of the other books that I've used over the years.

A wonderful book to develop a strong rhythmic sense is Peter Magadini's *Polyrhythms: The Musician's Guide*. It has a lot of challenging exercises and really makes people aware of the vast possibilities in the world of rhythm. Terry Silverlight's *The Featured Drummer* also pushes the rhythmic envelope, by presenting common subdivisions with polyrhythmic accents over unusual stickings.

Brush master Philly Joe Jones wrote a classic book on the subject, called *Brush Artistry* [currently out of print]. It contains a dozen patterns using some of the techniques Philly Joe was famous for. Although most of them are fairly self-explanatory, the actual way he performed them is a little different from what's on paper. In the 1970s I had the chance to play opposite Philly Joe when he was performing with the Bill Evans Trio. One afternoon I asked him to play through the book and show me exactly how he executed each exercise. It was truly fascinating to behold—and I recorded it!

I also really like books that contain valuable musical and historical information that gives the reader some context for applying the exercises. Books like *The Art of Modern Jazz Drumming* by Jack DeJohnette and Charlie Perry, as well as John Riley's *The Art of Bop Drumming* and *Beyond Bop Drumming*, are great for that.

I've also had very good results using various Joel Rothman coordination books, since they really focus on specific things and allow for a lot of personal interpretation. The secret to using any book creatively is to take the exercises and explore and expand them in order to make them your own.

Finally, once when I was looking for a discography of the legendary drummer Dave Tough, I came across a PDF of a book he wrote in the 1940s titled *Dave Tough's Advanced Paradiddle Exercises*. Supposedly there are only three copies left in the world. What's amazing about it is that although Dave generally hated soloing and was best known for his exceptional time and musicality, this book has 200 extended sticking exercises that are quite a challenge.



Paul Wertico is an assistant professor and the head of jazz and contemporary music studies at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

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25 TIMELESS DRUM BOOKS

Reading/Snare Drum



**PROGRESSIVE STEPS TO
SYNCOPATION FOR THE
MODERN DRUMMER**
by Ted Reed (Alfred)

Only *Stick Control* received more votes than
Syncopation, and it was difficult to deter-
mine which category to place this one in, as drummers
and teachers have found so many ways to apply its
rhythms to reading, technique, and coordination studies.



**BUDDY RICH'S MODERN
INTERPRETATION OF SNARE
DRUM RUDIMENTS**
by Buddy Rich and Henry
Adler (Music Sales Corporation)

This is the book that
showed drummers that rudiments
are not just for military drumming,
and that they can even swing!



PORTRAITS IN RHYTHM
by Anthony J. Cirone (Alfred)

If you can play the material in this book,
you can handle just about any snare drum
part you're likely to encounter.



MODERN READING TEXT IN 4/4
by Louie Bellson
and Gil Breines (Alfred)

A good follow-up to Podemski's text, this
book includes patterns that can be used
much like the ones in *Syncopation*.

World Music



**AFRO-CUBAN RHYTHMS
FOR DRUMSET**
by Frank Malabe
and Bob Weiner (Alfred)

This classic text, one of the first formal
courses on world rhythms, includes his-
torical information, folkloric orchestra-
tions, and contemporary applications for a variety of tra-
ditional Afro-Cuban feels. The similarly structured
Brazilian Rhythms for Drumset is also highly regarded.



**WEST AFRICAN RHYTHMS
FOR DRUMSET**
by Royal Hartigan (Alfred)

This book focuses on drumset
orchestrations of rhythms such as
Ghanaian sikiy, adowa, gahu, and
akom. Historical information and a
well-recorded demo CD make this a
vital study in exploring the origins
of contemporary kit vocabulary.