

# Use and Care of Concert Percussion

Percussionists need to have a working knowledge of many instruments to perform from one piece to the next. Whether playing drums, auxiliary, mallets, timpani, or ethnic instruments, knowing the mallet options and appropriate technique for each is essential

## APPROPRIATE MALLETS

### INSTRUMENT

**SNARE DRUM**

**BASS DRUM**

**TIMPANI**

**MALLET INSTRUMENTS**

**CYMBAL**

**TRIANGLE (W/CLIP)**

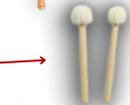
**WOOD BLOCK, TEMPLE BLOCKS**

**COWBELL**

### STICK OR MALLET

2B OR 5B (WOOD TIP FOR CONCERT SNARE). 

FELT MALLET. (HARDNESS AND SIZE DEPENDS ON STYLE OF MUSIC). 

FELT COVERED TIMPANI MALLETS (STACCATO, GENERAL, OR SOFT). 

YARN, RUBBER, OR LEXAN MALLETS. BELLS CAN ALSO USE STEEL BEADS. 

YARN MALLETS FOR ROLLS, SNARE STICK ON RIDE PARTS. 

METAL TRIANGLE BEATER (COMES IN DIFFERENT WEIGHTS). 

RUBBER MALLETS. (DEPENDS ON VOLUME NEEDED). 

COWBELL BEATER (OR BACK OF SNARE STICK). 

## General Considerations

- Sticks are the only things that should rest on a percussion instrument. Never put other objects on them, and make sure others don't use drums as a 'table'.
- Avoid touching the head of any felt mallets directly with your hand. The oils on your skin will pull the felt away from the stick. Timpani and bass drum mallets are especially prone to fraying when handled improperly.
- Put all mallets and auxiliary percussion away after every rehearsal.
  - In general, leave the percussion area cleaner than you found it.
- Cover timpani with protective vinyl covers if available and loosen the tuning pedals.
- Loosen the strainers on snares after rehearsal.
- Never tighten or loosen lugs on a drum without the help of your teacher. An out of tune drum will not 'ring properly'. Point any out of tune drum out to your teacher.
- Always use sticks appropriate for the instrument being played as listed above.

**WHEN PURCHASING SNARE STICKS, MAKE SURE THEY ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THE STYLE OF MUSIC YOU WILL BE PLAYING. MANY DRUMMERS HAVE A STICK BAG WITH A VARIETY OF STICKS AND MALLETS.**



- MARCHING BAND SNARE DRUMMERS USE LARGE, OFTEN SIZE 1 STICKS. ASK YOUR DIRECTOR.
- A SET PLAYER MAY USE A LIGHTER STICK LIKE A 7, OR MAYBE A 5.
- CONCERT SNARES COMMONLY GRAB A 5B, BUT A 2B IS POSSIBLE.
- NYLON TIPS ARE FINE IF CYMBAL WORK IS PART OF THE GIG.
- AVOID STICKS WITH RUBBER 'HANDLES' ON THE GRIP END.
  - THEY INHIBIT THE 'FEEL' AND SHOULD NOT BE A CHOICE FOR BEGINNERS.