

# DRUM

## DESCRIPTION

- A drum is a percussion instrument consisting of any hollow, cylinder-shaped body that has a membrane or "head" stretched over it. The body may be made of wood or metal.
- There are literally thousands of different kinds and sizes of drums. Some have a pitch (called pitched), and some do not (called unpitched).
- All over the world, drums are used to provide the rhythmic foundation for music and dance. Originally, they were used to send signals and to "drum up" enthusiasm during battle.

## HOW TO PLAY

- A snare drum (Track 35) has two drum heads, one on either side. The bottom has eight or more strings of thin wire (snares) stretched across it. These add a buzz to the sound when the upper drum head is struck by a drumstick. When the snares are released, the drum gives a tom-tom effect (Track 36).
- The drummer hits the drum head, producing a short, precise, cracking sound.
- Sticks should strike near (but not at) the center of the drum head. For a "matched grip," the palms should face down, gripping the stick between the thumb and the first joint of the index finger, one third of the distance from the large end of the drumstick. Don't grip the sticks too tightly to allow for easy wrist movement. The drum head is struck using a quick down-up motion.
- Drums can be carried using straps or can be placed on metal stands.

## SOUND

- Depending on the drum, the sound can be sharp and crisp or long and ringing. Play some different drums to hear how the sounds can differ. If the drummer hits the head and the rim of the drum simultaneously with a stick, it's called a rim shot. This produces an accented, sharp, and loud sound.
- Drums may be struck by wooden drumsticks, a mallet (either wooden, plastic, metal, or felt), or soft wire brushes. Each will create a different sound or tone quality.

## FUN FACTS

- Pitched drums include the roto-toms, which can be tuned to specific notes by rotating the head.
- Bass drums are the largest of the drums and are used in orchestras and bands. Often, the drum heads or sides were painted with fancy decorations and even royal crests.
- A basic drumset (or trap set) includes a snare drum, bass drum, small tom-toms, a large tom-tom, a ride cymbal, a crash cymbal, and hi-hat cymbals.
- There are many basic elements and techniques for the snare drum. These are known as the rudiments of drum playing. Some of the rudiments include the roll, drag, flam, ruff, ratamacue, and paradiddle.

## SOUND SAMPLES

TRACK 35 - Snare Drum Riffs

TRACK 36 - On the Tom-Tom

# DOGGY ON THE DRUM

