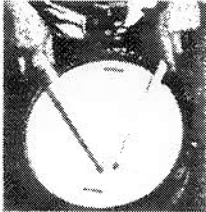




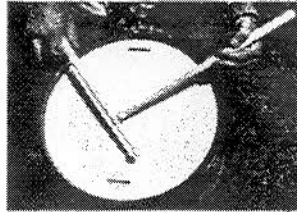
Holding the Sticks:

In drumming there are two ways to hold the sticks. The first way is called "Matched Grip" and the second way is called "Traditional Grip".

Matched Grip



Traditional Grip



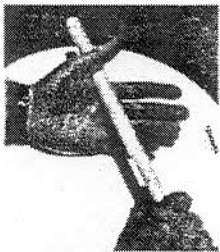
we feel

The traditional grip is mainly used by pipe band drummers, but you will occasionally see a few drummers using the matched grip. The style that will be taught to all cadet snare drummers will be the traditional grip. This method will allow the player to have better control of the sticks. Try to use the traditional grip because it is better suited to the pipe band style of drumming.

Traditional Grip:

Left Hand:

In the left hand, the stick is held between the base of the thumb and the index finger. To help while learning how to hold the stick in your left hand, try the following:



- Place the back of your left hand flat on the table.

- Take the stick in your right hand and place it in the base between the thumb and index finger on your left hand. 9 cm (3 1/2") of the stick should be sticking out from your thumb.

Note

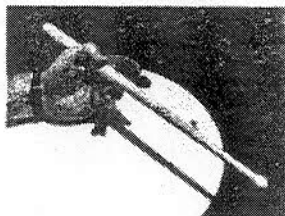


- Bend your ring finger and pinky at the first knuckle, so that they are under the stick. Rest the stick on your ring finger.



- The thumb then goes over top of the stick so that the bottom joint of the thumb is touching the stick (not the 1st part of the thumb).

back



- The ring finger and pinky lay loosely under the stick. Do not close these fingers against the palm of your left hand or your stick control will become stiff.

- The index finger and middle finger sit above, parallel to and slightly out from the stick (they do not touch the stick at all) *may* ~~to provide additional stick control~~

- Pick up the stick, maintaining this positioning.

gently

Holding the Sticks Con't:

Right Hand: In the right hand, the stick is held between the thumb and index finger. To help while learning how to hold the stick in your right hand, try the following:

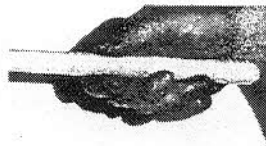
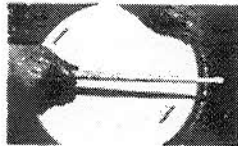
- Place the stick on the table.

- Pick the stick up with your thumb and index finger only, so that the stick extends just slightly beyond the wrist. The thumb holds the stick on one side and the index finger on the other. The 1st pad of the index finger curls underneath the stick so that the stick is resting on the 2nd pad of this finger.



may gently guide.

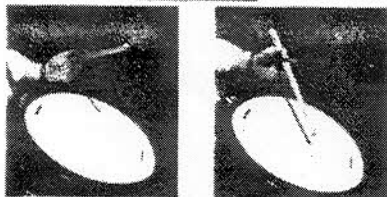
- Curl the remaining three fingers of your right hand under the stick. These three fingers ~~do not touch the stick, but will be used to control the stick's motion.~~



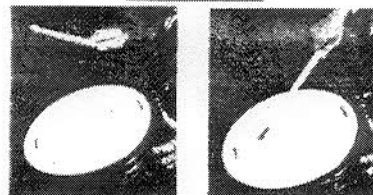
You do not want to hold either stick too tight or your hand will cramp up and you will lose your stick control. The left hand stick should sit loosely in the base of the left hand and its motion is controlled by the thumb. The right hand stick should be held loosely, balanced between your index finger and thumb. The other 3 fingers, which are under the stick, will control the motion of the right hand stick.

When striking the drum, using either stick, do not make your arms do the work. Your left hand wrist and thumb, and your right hand wrist and 3 fingers (pinky, ring and middle) should do all of the work to make the sticks move up and down.

Left Hand



Right Hand



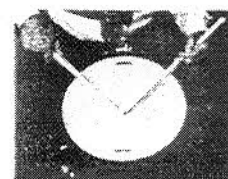
Striking a Drum:

When a drummer plays on a drum there is a right and wrong way to strike the drum. It is important for you to remember that the type of drum that you are learning to play is the snare drum. Since it is the snares that give the drum its unique sound, how and where you hit or strike the drum is a key factor in the quality of the sound that you will get from the drum itself.

The diameter of the drumhead is 35 cm

(14") across the top. With that much of a playing area, the sound will change depending on where you strike the drum. If you were to play close to the edge of the drum, the sound would be "tinny", that is not the sound that you want to produce. As you strike closer to the centre of the drum, the snares react more to each strike played. So when playing, try and play in the centre of the drum to achieve the best snare sound. When learning to

play it is a good habit to try and play in the centre of the practice pad as well. Then when you get to play on the drum, it will be natural for you to play in the centre.



Factors that Influence Tone:

There are 7 factors that influence your ability to produce a good tone from your snare drum. Tone is defined as the quality of the sound.

Factor 1: Proper sticks. You want a pair of pipe band drum sticks that are matched (equal) in weight and produce a sharp pitch. This will give you a clearer sound when playing.

Factor 2: Drum Heads (both top and bottom). Your ability to produce a good tone from the heads will reduce as the heads get older. An older drum head will produce a dull sound because it has been stretched to the point where you cannot tension the head to the desired pitch.

Factor 3: Snares. If one of the snare strands is broken or the snare itself is old, change the snare as it will affect the sound. A broken snare strand or an old snare will rattle. An older snare will have stretched to the point where you cannot adjust it so it can produce a crisp snare sound.

Factor 4: The Snare Drum Itself: If the shell of the snare drum is buckled or the tensioning mechanisms are older or not working properly, this will affect your ability to produce a good sound. If the drum shell has buckled, the sound will not resonate properly. If the mechanisms don't work properly, you will not be able to correctly tension the drum.

Factor 5: Tensioning of the Heads. If the heads are not tensioned correctly, you will not be able to produce a good tone. If the top head is not tensioned correctly, your sound will be dull and flat. If the bottom head is not tensioned correctly you will not get the desired response from the bottom snare.

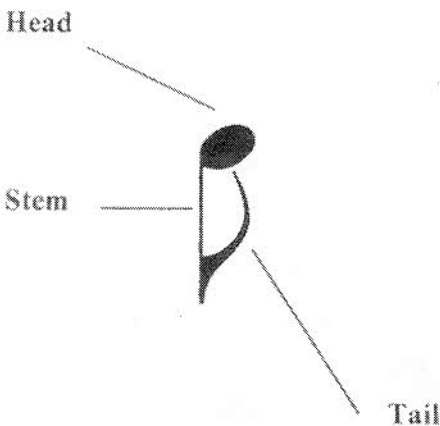
Factor 6: Tensioning of the Snares. If the snares are not adjusted properly, you will not be able to produce the desired sound from you drum. If the snares are too loose, they will rattle and if they are too tight they will choke (deaden) the sound.

Factor 7: Striking the Drum. Where you strike or play on the drum will have a significant affect on the sound you produce.

Music Theory:

The six notes in common use and their two names:

The three parts of a note:



Whole Note
Or
Semibreve



Eighth Note
Or
Quaver



Half Note
Or
Minim



Sixteenth Note
Or
Semi-Quaver



Quarter Note
Or
Crotchet

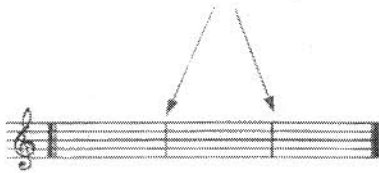


Thirty-Second Note
Or
Demi-Semi-Quaver

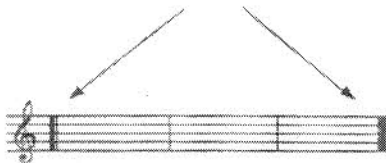


Music Theory Con't:

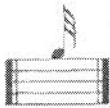
• **Bar Lines:** Divide the music into equal parts.



• **Double Bar Lines:** Indicate the beginning and/or the end of a musical sentence (called a part).



• **Gracenotes:** Have 3 purposes:
 1. To separate 2 notes that are of the same pitch (ie 2 F's);
 2. To accent a specific note;
 3. To embellish (make more colourful) a specific note.



• **Pitch:**
 Is the height or depth of musical sound. Pitch can be used to describe a specific note, or to make reference to the sound of an instrument.

• **Musical Alphabet:**
 Consists of 7 letters which continually repeat themselves:
A, B, C, D, E, F and G.
 They are used to identify specific musical notes.

• **Treble Clef:**
 Is also known as a "G" clef. A Clef is a symbol used to separate music into sections so that the musical alphabet can be applied to indicate pitch. Bagpipe music is written in the Treble Clef, which is used for the top (or high) sounds/notes.

Drumming music is written either:

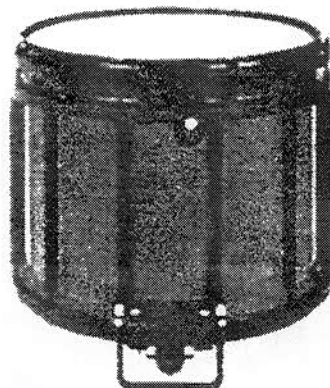
 the Bass ("F" Clef); or

 the Percussion Clef

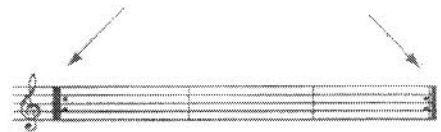
• **Leger Lines:**
 Are lines added to extend a Staff (ie. the Treble Clef) when the sound/note is too high or too low to be written on the 5 line staff. In bagpipe music, a Leger Line is used when writing High A.

• **Bagpipe Scale:**
 Consists of the nine notes that can be played on a chanter: **Low G, Low A, B, C, D, E, F High G and High A.**

• **Duration:**
 Is the system used to identify and understand musical rhythms.



• **Repeat Signs:**



To the right of a double bar line means that what you are about to play is to be repeated (once you reach the next repeat sign).

To the left of the double bar line means that you will repeat what you have just played (by going back to the previous repeat sign).

• **Repeat Symbols:**

When you want to repeat the previous beat or bar, use:



When you want to repeat the bar above, use:

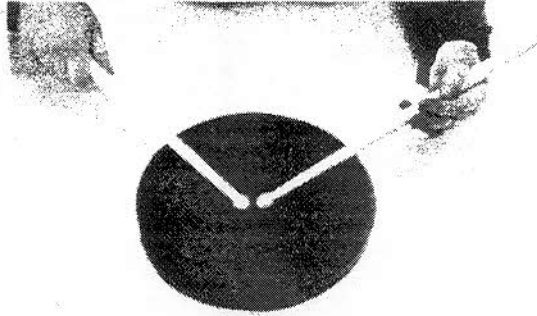


Practice Pads:

The most popular types of practice pad used by pipe band drummers is the rubber practice pad. These pads either come mounted on a wooden base or are simply a piece of rubber that can be set on any table. These pads are made of a softer rubber to allow for good response.

Note: A pad that is not mounted on a wooden base must be played on a hard flat surface in order to get a good response.

~~There is a~~ hard rubber practice pad (see photo) ^{which is good} when the whole drum corps is practicing together. This allows for everything to be heard more clearly. There is also a tunable practice pad. This pad is quite loud in nature and has a flatter sound.



Sticks:

There are a number of different makes of pipe band snare drum sticks available to the player. All pipe band snare drum sticks, regardless of the make, are generally made of wood (hickory or maple) and come in various weights and thicknesses. A 55 gram stick would be considered heavy and a 40 gram stick would be considered a light weight.

The thickness of the stick is determined by the diameter of the stick itself. The tips of the stick can also vary in size and affect the sound produced by the stick.

Players with smaller hands should pick a stick that is not too thick in diameter. When playing, you must be able to hold the sticks properly and the weight of the sticks themselves must be comfortable.

The length of the sticks are very similar with little difference. The standard length of a snare drum stick is approximately 40 cm or 16 inches.

