

RECOMMENDED PERCUSSION STICKS AND MALLETS

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From the very beginning of percussion study, students should have a stick bag or carrying case of some kind to keep everything in. Timpani mallets should be kept in their original plastic bag whenever not in use to protect the felt from fraying/extend life of the mallet, and NEVER be used on suspended cymbals (use a yarn mallet instead).

One justification or "selling point" to parents for students acquiring their own stick and mallets: wind players need to continually buy reeds, brass players oil, string players need rosin, strings replaced, bow rehired, step-up instruments, etc... Encourage or require purchasing at least 1-2 items per year (i.e.: year one = snare sticks and bell mallets; year two = either 1 pair timpani or yarn mallets; year three = the other pair not acquired in year two, etc.).

Not all students will need everything on the list, however, more advanced or "serious" students and those entering ensembles or studies at the university level will be expected to have "the right tools". University percussion professors generally have a recommended list, which may be exclusive to companies/products they endorse.

Beginning (Elementary School) students:

Snare Drum

- Vic Firth General (SD-1), 5A, 5B or equivalent to fit hand (7A is very thin/light & good for drumset with a small combo like a quartet but too light for snare drum; 2B is too heavy/closer to a concert snare stick)

Bells/Xylophone

- Poly ball/nylon mallet; good on xylophone & bells/harder than rubber but not a hard plastic: Yamaha KPB-91B, Innovative IP902 James Ross, Mallettech BB34 Bob Becker, or equivalent

Intermediate (Middle School) students:

Snare Drum

- Vic Firth General (SD-1), Innovative IP-JC James Campbell or equivalent

Bells/Xylophone

- Poly ball/nylon mallet; good on xylophone & bells/harder than rubber but not a hard plastic: Yamaha KPB-91B, Innovative IP902 James Ross, Mallettech BB34 Bob Becker, or equivalent

Timpani

- Vic Firth T3 Staccato (smaller head than a T1 General), Innovative GT-3 Medium or equivalent

Marimba/Vibraphone (also for use on suspended cymbals)

- 1 pair medium yarn mallets: Yamaha KYB-13, Innovative IP240 or equivalent, OR
- 1 pair medium hard yarn mallets: Yamaha KYB-12, Innovative IP275 or equivalent

Drum Set

- 5A, 5B or similar (7A is very thin/light & good for small combo like a quartet but not large ensemble work; 2B is too heavy/closer to a concert snare stick)

Brushes

- Vic Firth Jazz Brush

Advanced (High School) students:

Snare Drum

- Vic Firth General (SD-1), Innovative IP-JC James Campbell, Cooperman #1 (Graham C. Johns), Cooperman #5 (Nick Petrella), or equivalent, AND
- Vic Firth Bolero (SD-2), or equivalent

Bells/Xylophone

- Poly Ball/Nylon: Yamaha KPB-91B, Innovative IP902 James Ross, Malletch BB34 Bob Becker, or equivalent, AND
- Either 1 pair very hard acrylic/plastic mallets for bells: Yamaha KPB-10B, Innovative IP906 James Ross, OR
- 1 pair brass bell mallets: Yamaha KBB-9B, Balter 09B or equivalent

Timpani

- Vic Firth T3 Staccato (smaller head than a T1 General), Innovative GT-3 Medium or equivalent, AND
- Innovative GT-4 Hard Staccato or equivalent

Marimba

- 2 pair medium yarn mallets: Yamaha KYB-13, Innovative IP240 or equivalent OR
- 2 pair medium hard yarn mallets: Yamaha KYB-12, Innovative IP275

Vibraphone

- 2 pair medium vibe mallets: Innovative RS251, Malletch DS11 or equivalent OR
- 2 pair hard vibe mallets: Innovative RS301, Malletch DS18 or equivalent (select a different harness from marimba mallets above for variety)

Drum Set

- 5A, 5B or equivalent
- 7A for small combos and light cymbal work

Brushes

- Vic Firth Jazz Brush
- Pro Mark "Hot Rods"

Intermediate to Advanced players should also begin purchasing/investing in accessory instruments and equipment such as metronome, tuning fork, dark hand towel to make a "music stand trap table", tambourine, triangle, wood block, maracas, shaker, guiro, claves, additional mallets from above list; depending on personal interests additional timpani and keyboard mallets (soft, very hard, ultra staccato, etc.) should be acquired.