



PERCUSSION 101 STUDY GUIDE

Instructional videos are available online at <http://www.vicfirth.com/education/percussion101-timpani.php>

Timpani

VIDEO 1: Instrument Characteristics and General Maintenance

1. What types of pedal systems are most common on timpani?
2. How often should timpani heads be replaced?
3. How should you properly care for the timpani?
4. What are the most common sizes of timpani?
5. Describe the procedure for moving timpani.

VIDEO 2: Setup

1. When sitting to play timpani, what are important factors to watch out for?
2. Describe how to best set up the timpani and music stand.

VIDEO 3: Grip and Basic Stroke

1. What are the three common grips for playing timpani?
2. Describe the proper beating area for timpani

VIDEO 4: Sticking considerations

1. When moving from drum to drum, which hand should you lead with if at all possible?
2. Describe when it is preferable to use double sticking vs. cross-sticking

VIDEO 5: Rolls

1. What type of roll should you use when playing timpani?
2. Name all of the factors which will influence the speed of your timpani roll.

VIDEO 6: Muffling

1. Describe the procedure for muffling the timpani.

VIDEO 7: Tuning

1. When learning to tune timpani, what is the first and most important skill to practice?
2. Ideally, where would a pitch tuned on the timpani sound its best?
3. Name the proper pitch range for each size timpani
4. When using timpani tuning gauges, what should you look out for?

VIDEO 8: More Tuning Recommendations

1. Why is learning to sing intervals important for a timpanist?
2. Describe "sympathetic resonance"

VIDEO 9: Articulation and Stroke Speed

1. Describe how changing the speed of your stroke can affect tonal color and articulation

VIDEO 10: Mallet Selection

1. Explain why it's important that a timpanist have a wide range of mallets