

Easy Bucket Drumming Download Edition



Includes:

- 18 songs – pop to classical
- Projectables
- Movies
- Teaching Tips
and more!

by Matthew Dane Peavoy
Themes & Variations

Easy Bucket Drumming

By

Matthew Dane Peavoy

Special Thanks to Denise Gagne and Carey-Lyn Holt

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Themes & Variations

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Introduction

Easy Bucket Drumming is a collection of fun and upbeat arrangements for students age six and above. As students work through this resource, they will learn to read quarter and eighth note rhythms, adapt to different tempos and develop hand independence. Students will also learn about musical concepts such as form, dynamics, accents, and improvisation.

Buckets are cheap and easy to store! Can you imagine trying to store a set of 30 congas in your music room? You probably already have a few buckets lying around and could easily get a class set from donations alone. Drum sticks are also inexpensive, but a set of wooden dowels from a dollar store will work just as well!

You can produce four unique sounds on a bucket drum by hitting the sides, top, rim or clicking the sticks. By using larger or smaller buckets, you can create even more variety in sounds and form a bucket drumming ensemble. We have developed an easy to read notation that allows students to switch between these sounds and prepares them for reading other percussion notation.

What's in Easy Bucket Drumming?

- 18 pieces sequenced to build reading and performance skills
- A basic guide to drumming technique
- Music Room Rules chant with body percussion
- Variety of styles: pop, hip hop, rock, jazz, and classical
- Projectable Bucket Drumming notation with embedded audio
- One-page arrangements and links to play along with pop songs
- Notation Movies with automatic page turns and easy guide arrows
- Teacher tips and suggestions for classroom management
- Opportunities to improvise
- MP3 audio with click tracks



Playing Position

Holding the Drum Sticks

Grip the drum stick between your first finger and thumb with your palm facing the floor. This allows the drum stick to bounce. Be careful not to grip it with a closed fist, as this will prevent the drum from sounding properly. The pointer finger should not be extended along the drum stick, but should be gently wrapped around it.

Two Finger Grip
(good)



Pointer Grip
(bad)



Fist Grip
(bad)



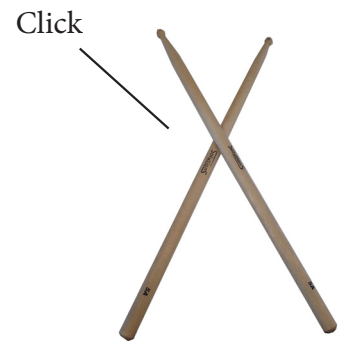
Sitting Position

You can sit on the floor, on another bucket, or a low stool. Sit tall with your elbows slightly raised to the side. Hold the drum between your legs and have it tilted slightly forward. This will give the drum a better sound.

Different Parts on the Bucket

You can create different sounds by striking different parts of the bucket. The lowest line in the music is the side of the bucket. This is because the sides of the bucket often produce the lowest sound, although this might vary depending on the bucket. Be careful not to let the bucket move when you hit the sides. Next is the top of the bucket, and then the rim. When striking the rim, hit the part of the rim farthest away from you as this will make it easier to play. Finally, the top line of music is played by clicking the sticks. This is written as an x to remind you to cross the drum sticks.

Musical notation for a 4/4 rhythm on a bucket. The notation consists of four staves, each with a 4/4 time signature. The staves are labeled on the left as Click, Rim, Top, and Side. The Click staff has a whole rest followed by an 'x' on the top line. The Rim staff has a whole note on the second line. The Top staff has a quarter note on the second line. The Side staff has a quarter note on the first line.



Music Room Rules

Process

1. Have the students read the rhythms (ex. Ta, ti ti, or 1 2 + 3 + 4 +)
2. Read the words in rhythm. Talk about what they mean in a music classroom.
3. Divide the class into 2 groups - one reads the A section and the other reads the B section.
4. Give the students the suggested body percussion to go with part A or have students come up with their own.
For example: stomp stomp stomp stomp
pat pat pat pat pat pat
5. Read part B and give the students the suggested body percussion or have them come up with their own. Keep a beat on a woodblock or a drum and have them do the line four times to practice. Divide the class in half and have one half perform and the other watch.
6. Divide the class into 4 groups and give each group either side, top, right and click. Practice speaking each part first, then add body percussion and finally bucket drums.
7. This chant is a great way to open a concert. To play along with the audio or video included on the disk follow the following form: Intro AB AB.

Listen for 8 beats, Play A for 8 beats (2x), B for 6 beats, A for 8 beats(2x), B for 16 beats

Divide the students back into the four groups and give each one a line of the music. First time through, speak the music rules chant only. Second time, add body percussion or bucket drumming. Try creating your own accompaniment and have one half of the classroom speaking while the other half plays bucket drums.

Music Rules Poster Pack

This chant is taken from our Music Rules Posters Pack. This poster pack includes posters for music room rules, audience behavior and instrument care. There are 20 posters and lesson plans to use with the posters. Find this and similar products at musicplay.com in the Teaching Aids section.



Music Room Rules

8 beat intro

A

Play 2x

Click *pat legs*

Rim

Top R L R L R L R L R L R L

Side

Care for the in - stru - ments and all of the e - quip - ment.

B

Click *stomp pat*

Rim *pat*

Top R L R L R L R L

Side R L R L

Click *clap*

Rim *clap*

Top R L R L R L

Side

Click *stomp*

Rim

Top

Side

Make good choi - ces Al - way be re - spon - si - ble. Use good man - ners be nice and be kind.

Click *stomp pat*

Rim *clap*

Top R L R L R L

Side L

Click *stomp*

Rim *clap*

Top R L R L R L

Side

Click *stomp pat*

Rim *pat*

Top L R L R L

Side

Speak when ac - knowl - edged al - ways put your hand up. In the mu - sic room al - ways try your best.

Form: Intro AB AB



The First Bucket Drumming Class

Process

1. Set up the bucket drums with the sticks inside them around the room and have students sit behind them without touching the buckets or the sticks.

2. Teach this chant:



If you play be - fore I say I'll take your in - stru - ments a - way.

3. Rest position for bucket drumming is to hold a drumstick in each hand and put your hands on your lap with each drumstick pointed at the knee. To teach rest position, play a Simon Says game. For this game, the teacher is Simon and the class are the players. Standing in front of the group, Simon tells the players what they must do. However, the players must only obey commands that begin with the words "Simon Says." If Simon says, "Simon Says sticks on your head," then players must put sticks on their head. If Simon says, "Sticks in rest position" and the players follow the command they are out.

4. If students would like to practice, they are allowed to practice on their legs instead of hitting the drums.

5. Open up the projectable PDF to teach students about playing position. Check that each student is holding the drum sticks correctly.

6. Open up the movie or projectable PDF for the first piece, "Side Step". Have students practice in the air 8 beats of right hand and 8 beats of left hand. Have students play 8 beats on the side of the bucket, the top of the bucket, the rim, and clicking sticks.

7. Practice "Side Step" on the drums and then play with the Projectable PDF or movie.

Teacher Tip! The movies have automatic page turns and easy guide arrows so you won't lose your place in the music. Since some pieces have different length introductions, the movies also have a four beat click track to tell you when to play.

8. Ask the students what symbols like *mp* and *f* mean. Dynamics are important for classroom management, as 30 bucket drums can often overpower the accompaniment tracks. Ask if they can think of any other dynamics?

Dynamics			
<i>p</i>	<i>mp</i>	<i>mf</i>	<i>f</i>
piano	mezzo-piano	mezzo-forte	forte
quiet	medium quiet	medium loud	loud



1. Side Step

8 beat intro

Play 3x

Click $\frac{4}{4}$

Rim $\frac{4}{4}$

Top $\frac{4}{4}$

Side $\frac{4}{4}$ R R R L L L R R L L R L R

mp *f*

2. Top Hats

8 beat intro

Play 4x

Click $\frac{4}{4}$

Rim $\frac{4}{4}$

Top $\frac{4}{4}$ R R R R L L L L R R L L R L R L LR

Side $\frac{4}{4}$ *p*

SAMPLE



3. Off the Rim

8 beat intro

Play 4x

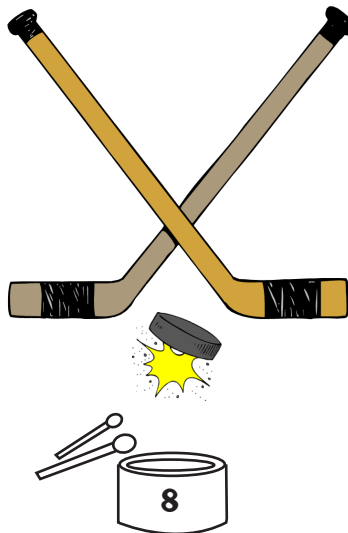
Musical notation for 'Off the Rim' in 4/4 time. It features four staves: Click, Rim, Top, and Side. The Click staff has a 4/4 time signature and a double bar line. The Rim staff has a 4/4 time signature and notes with stems and flags, labeled with 'R' and 'L'. The Top and Side staves have 4/4 time signatures and double bar lines. A dynamic marking of *mp* is at the bottom left. A repeat sign with a first ending bracket is at the end of the Rim staff.

4. Stick To It!

8 beat intro

Play 4x

Musical notation for 'Stick To It!' in 4/4 time. It features four staves: Click, Rim, Top, and Side. The Click staff has a 4/4 time signature and four 'x' marks. The Rim staff has a 4/4 time signature and notes with stems and flags, labeled with 'R' and 'L'. The Top staff has a 4/4 time signature and notes with stems and flags, labeled with 'R' and 'L'. The Side staff has a 4/4 time signature and notes with stems and flags, labeled with 'R' and 'L'. Dynamic markings of *f*, *mf*, *mp*, and *p* are at the bottom. A repeat sign with a first ending bracket is at the end of the Rim staff.

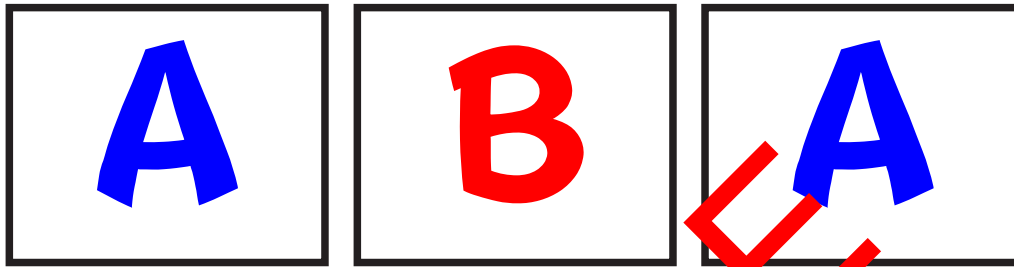


Musical Form and Phrasing

Form

The way music is organized is called its form. Form makes it easy for a listener or a performer to understand the music and gives it some variety. One of the most common forms is called:

ABA Form



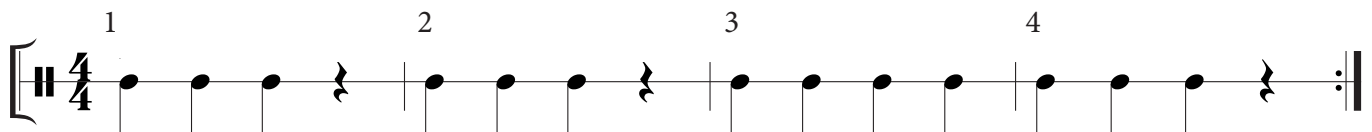
Teacher Tip:

ABA form is kind of like a cookie, the top and bottom are the same, but there is something different in the middle.



Phrasing

Form is made up of musical phrases. A phrase is made up of sections of music usually 4, although in some cases a phrase can be 8, 16, or even 32 measures long



Play "Dance of the Reed Pipes". Does this follow ABA form? How long is each musical phrase?



Easy Pop Song Arrangements

Pop Songs!

For this collection, we have chosen three pop songs that are clean and have positive messages for students.

Wavin' Flag (Coca Cola Celebration Mix)
by K'NAAN

Better When I'm Dancin'
by Meghan Trainor

CAN'T STOP THE FEELING!
by Justin Timberlake

Process

1. Learn the arrangement from this book first. Once you have practiced each phrase and gotten used to the form, play along with the Projectable PDF or Music Paper.
2. Play along with the accompaniment track using the one-page arrangements and get used how the form is laid out.
3. Listen to the pop song from the links provided in the Projectable PDF. Point to the form letters at the bottom and count the repeats.
4. Play along to the pop song from the one-page arrangement. We have provided “word cues” at the start of every section to help you follow along with the performance. Using the one-page arrangement will allow a teacher to help students navigate the song without worrying about page turns.

D "When" **Play 3x**

Click
Rim
Top
Side

Form: Intro ABCD ABCD ADA



16. Freedom Flag

8 beat intro

A "Oh" Play 2x

Play 4x

Click

Rim

Top

Side

B "Give" Play 4x

Click

Rim

Top

Side

C "Singing" Play 2x

Click

Rim

Top

Side

D "When" Play 3x

Click

Rim

Top

Side



A

"Oh"

Play 2x

Click

Rim

Top

Side

B

"Give"

Play 4x

Click

Rim

Top

Side

C

"Singing"

Play 2x

Click

Rim

Top

Side

D

"When"

Play 4x

Click

Rim

Top

Side



A "Oh"

Play 2x

Click: ♩ : ♩ : ♩ : ♩ :
 Rim: ♩ : ♩ : ♩ : ♩ :
 Top: ♩ : R ♩ : ♩ : ♩ :
 Side: ♩ : ♩ : ♩ : ♩ :

D "When"

Play 4x

Click: ♩ : ♩ : ♩ : ♩ :
 Rim: ♩ : R ♩ : ♩ : R ♩ :
 Top: ♩ : R L ♩ : L ♩ : R L L ♩ : R L ♩ : R L L ♩ : R ♩ :
 Side: ♩ : ♩ : ♩ : ♩ :

A "Oh"

Play 2x

Click: ♩ : ♩ : ♩ : ♩ :
 Rim: ♩ : ♩ : ♩ : ♩ :
 Top: ♩ : R ♩ : ♩ : ♩ :
 Side: ♩ : ♩ : ♩ : ♩ :

SAMPLE

Did you know? You can play this exact arrangement with K'NAAN's "Wavin' Flag (Coca Cola Celebration Mix)" Find the Youtube link in the Projectable PDF!



16. Freedom Flag

One-page Arrangement

8 beat intro

8 beat intro

Click

Rim

Top

Side

A "Oh" Play 4x **B** "Give" Play 8x

Click

Rim

Top

Side

C "Singing" Play 4x **D** "When" 1st: 6x, 2nd: 8x, 3rd: 8x

Click

Rim

Top

Side

Form: Intro ABCD ABCD ADA

