



## Chromatic Set

ZENKO<sup>®</sup>  
ionian

ZENKO<sup>®</sup>  
combo

# Tutorial & Songbook



# Zenko Chromatic Set - Tutorial & Songbook



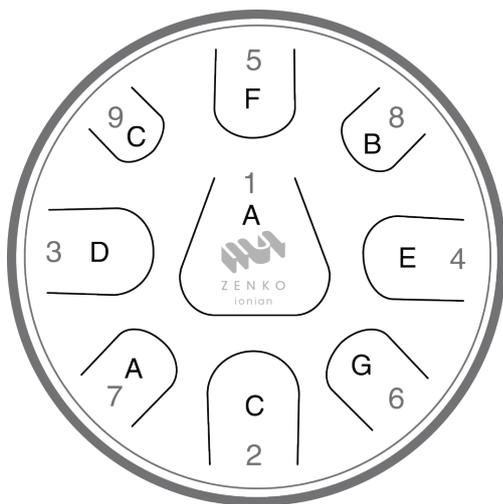
## Introduction

Dear client, thank you for choosing our **Zenko chromatic set**! The Zenko, created by **Metal Sounds**, producers of the finest percussion instruments, hand making high quality stainless steel drums in France, since 2014.

The Zenko is an 8 or 9 note Steel tongue drum, coming in 10 different models, with many scales and note layouts to choose from. For more information on our Zenko range please visit: <https://metalsounds-shop.com>

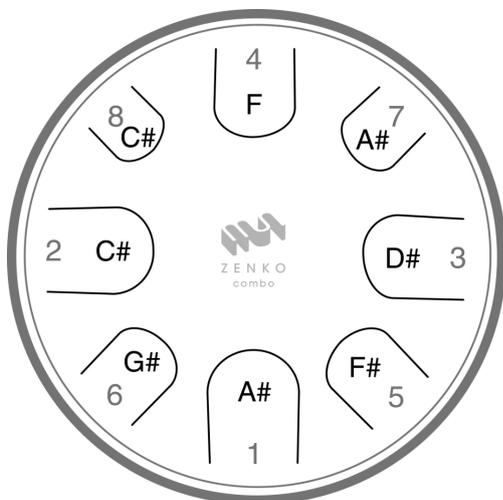
## Chromatic Set

The chromatic set is composed of two Zenkos. Their notes make up the set and give the chromatic scale (with all half tones) from C4 up to C#5 while complementing this with the lower A3 and Bb3 notes.



## The Range

The **Zenko ionian** comes tuned to A3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4 and C5. These notes correspond to the white keys on the piano.

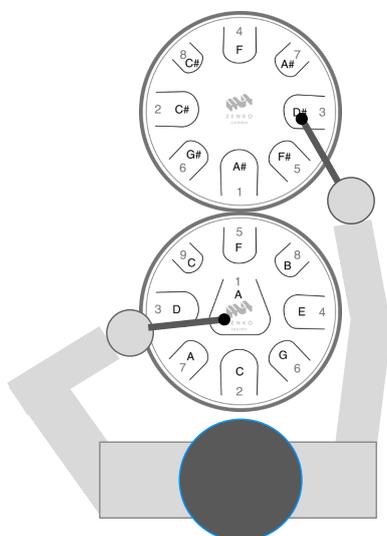
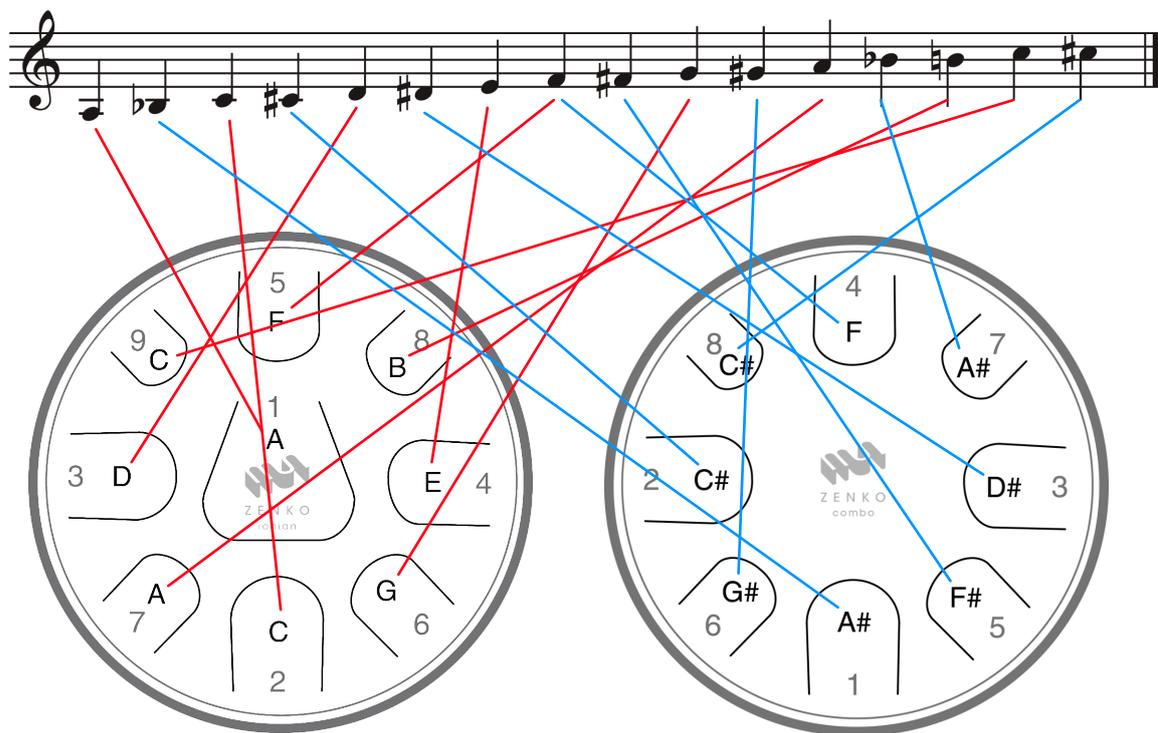
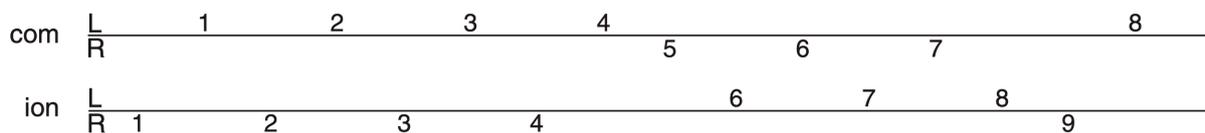


The **Zenko combo** comes tuned to Bb3, C#4, Eb4, F4, F#4, G#4, Bb4, C#5. The range corresponds to the black keys on the piano (Bb minor scale) with the exception of the F which is also found on the Zenko Ionian.



## Note Layout

The notes of the chromatic scale are arranged in the manner of the black and white keys of the piano, alternately on the two Zenkos. They are not arranged linearly as on the piano but on the outer circle of the Zenko. This positioning is difficult at first to understand but offers in exchange a full musical potential that you will appreciate. All the melodies become achievable.



## Positioning the Zenkos

To avoid crossing hands, it is best to place the Zenko one behind the other and not in a side by side formation. This positioning ensures ease of play of all notes on the two Zenko at the same time, while never having to cross hands.

## Playing Position

### Playing Position

To play the Zenko in a sitting position, place it flat on your lap, with the 2nd note closest to you, making sure it's far enough away that you don't have to bend your arms to reach the nearer notes.

Alternatively you can play the Zenko by placing it on a stool, chair or table top using the foam support provided with your drum.

If you wish to play the Zenko in a standing position, we advise you to use the special Metal Sounds stand which the Zenko can be screwed to.



Video



[Zenko on its Stand](#)

## Technique

The easiest way to play the Zenko is to use mallets. Use the rubber head mallets included with the drum or your own of similar hardness.

Playing with your hands is more demanding but gives a richer sound. You can also play with your thumb or index finger. The thumb gives a rounder sound and is more suitable for the lower notes. The index finger produces a more accurate tone and is suitable for all notes. The best method is to hit the tongue directly letting your finger bounce away from the note immediately to avoid dampening or muffling its resonance.



Video



Playing with Mallets

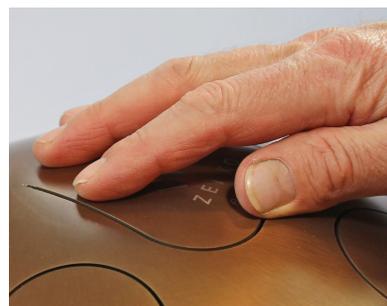


Thumb Slap



Index Finger Slap

When playing with your hands, you can dampen the sounds by applying light pressure with your fingertips on the note after hitting it with your hand.



Dampen Sound with Fingertips

In addition to playing with your hands, you can play two adjacent notes simultaneously with one hand by using your thumb and index finger and start a different chord.



Thumb and Index Finger

# Going Ahead

Melodic Style

Conny Sommer

com L R 6 6 6 | 6 6 6 |

ion L R 2 2 6 2 2 2 | 2 2 7 2 2 2 |

4 6 4 4 4 4 | 4 7 4 4 4 4 |

6 6 6 | 5 5 5 |

2 2 6 2 2 2 | 2 2 6 2 2 2 |

4 6 4 4 4 4 | 4 6 4 4 4 4 |

5 5 3 1 3 5 5 4 | 5 5 4 3 1 1 |

4 4 2 2 4 6 4 | 4 4 4 2 1 1 |

5 5 3 1 3 5 7 8 | 9 7 6 5 3 3 5 6 |

4 4 2 2 4 6 8 | 8 4 4 4 4 6 |

6 6 |

6 6 6 6 3 5 5 6 7 8 | 9 2 2 |

4 9 4 4 2 5 5 8 | 2 2 |



The notes for this piece are mainly found on the Zenko Ionian and only a few chromatic notes are on the Zenko Combo. Making it easier to get started playing this tune straight away.



Video

# El Guilliouchacha

## Chromatic Cha Cha Cha



ZENKO  
chromatic set

Conny Sommer

com L R 2 2

ion L R 3 5 7 5 7 2 5 7 5 7 3

7 5 7 7 5 7

3 6 3 3 5 3 3

6 6

4 7 9 4 9 4 6 9 4 9 4

6 8 6 5 2

4 8 8 7 7 6 4 6 5 4 3 3

This Cha Cha Cha styled chromatic piece changes from one line to the next. The challenge is not to get lost and keep focused!



Video

# Alles wird gut

Study for Chords

Conny Sommer

com L R | 7 7 7

ion L R | 9 6 4 9 6 4 9 8 6 3 8 6 3 8 | 5 3 5 3 7 5 2 7 5 2 7



8 8 | 3 5 3 5 3

4 7 4 7 4 3 5 7 5 7 3 | 8 8 4 6 4 6 4

8 8 | 5 5

5 7 5 7 5 3 2 3 2 3 | 3 3 9 2 2 9 | 9

6 8 6 8 6 8 6 4 4 6 1

A short piece, but not so easy to play! This tune changes chord often to distant scales, but finally returns to C major in the last bar. All's well that ends well!



# Steeeltongue Blues



Blues in C-Major

Conny Sommer

com L 7 7 7 7 | 3 3 3 3 | 7 7 7 7 | 7 7 7 7 |

ion R 4 4 4 4 | 7 7 7 7 | 4 4 4 4 | 4 4 2 4 |

3 3 3 3 | 3 3 3 3 | 7 7 7 7 | 7 7 7 7 |

7 7 5 7 | 7 7 5 7 | 4 4 2 4 | 4 4 2 4 |

5 5 5 5 | 3 3 3 3 | 7 7 7 7 | 7 7 7 7 |

8 8 6 8 | 7 7 5 7 | 4 4 2 4 | 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 2 |

8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 | 3 3 3 3 |

4 6 6 4 2 2 | 2 6 7 6 2 2 | 4 6 6 4 2 3 4 | 2 |

3 3 | 3 3 | 2 |

6 7 6 2 2 | 6 7 6 2 2 | 4 6 6 4 1 | 2 |

3 1 3 | 3 2 3 1 2 | 9 7 7 | 4 7 |

2 3 | 2 2 2 | 6 8 4 |

3 3 1 3 | 3 2 3 1 2 | 9 7 7 | 6 8 4 |

Played together with bass and guitar, this tune is just pure blues. Once you've mastered the melody and accompaniment, you can play a solo!





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