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PREFACE

Since the inception of the drumset at the turn of the twentieth century, the primary role of the drumset player has been that of an accompanist, functioning not only as the metronome or time keeper, but also as the creator of basic beats and patterns from which playing is based within various styles.

Over the years, the components of the “standard” drumset have changed as musical styles and tastes have evolved. For example, during the 1940s and 1950s, the standard drumset consisted of four drums (snare, bass, a mounted tom and floor tom), a ride cymbal, crash cymbal, pair of hi-hat cymbals, and perhaps some accessory instruments such as a cowbell and woodblock. With the evolution of rock ‘n’ roll, pop, etc., the cowbell and woodblock were replaced by an additional tom, making the standard drumset a five-piece setup rather than a four-piece setup. During the 1960s and 1970s, the size of the drumset increased considerably with the addition of multiple toms, a second bass drum, specialty cymbals (sizzle, Chinese, splash, etc.), and even more accessory instruments (wind chimes, roto-toms, electronic trigger pads, etc.).

Today, a “standard” drumset is a four- or five-piece setup containing the four basic elements: drums, cymbals, hardware (stands, mounting devices and pedals) and throne (or stool). A standard five-piece set includes a snare drum, bass drum (with a bass drum pedal), two mounted tom-toms (with mounting hardware), a floor tom-tom, cymbals (with stands), a hi-hat stand and a drum throne. As mentioned above, additional drums, including an additional bass drum, cymbals and accessory instruments, may be added to the basic setup.

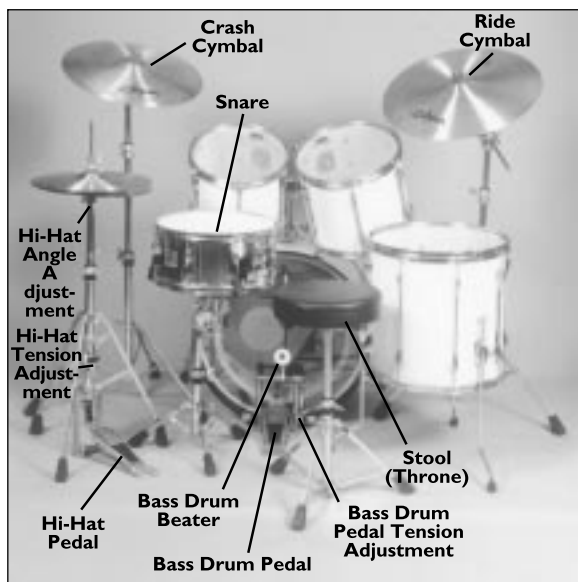
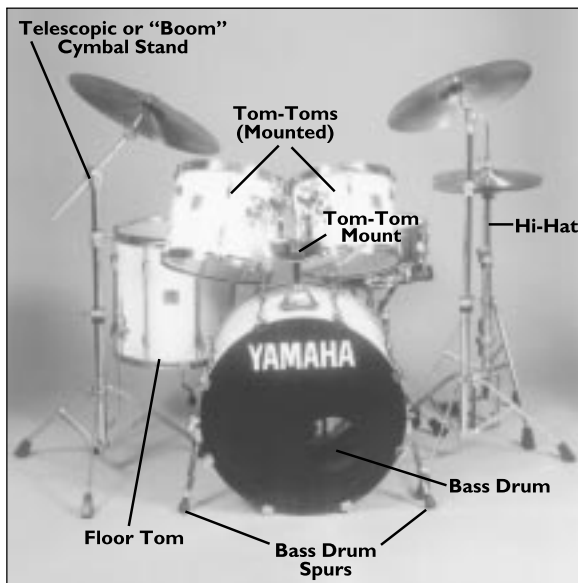
Special thanks to:

Dave Tull, Rod Harbour, Dave White, Kate Westin, Kim Kasabian, Steve Harder, Link Harnsberger, Bruce Goldes, Yamaha Corp. of America and Guitar Center.

THE OVERALL SETUP

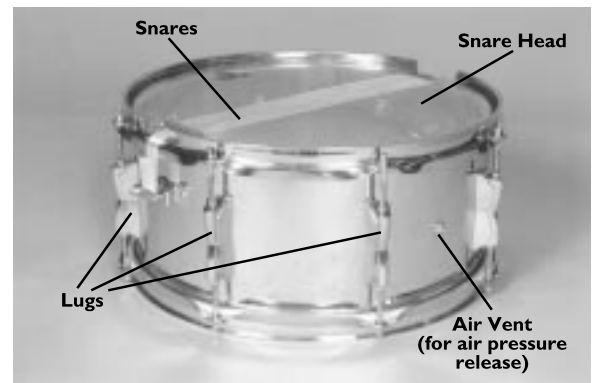
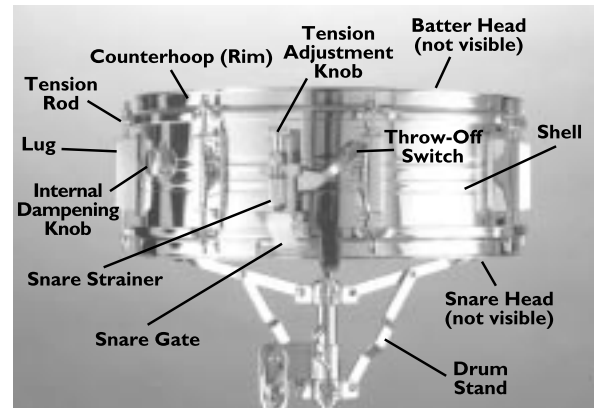
The drums and cymbals should be centralized around the player in such a way as to minimize reaching, stretching and twisting. The drums should be set up to accommodate the player—not the reverse.

Comfortable positioning of the drumset and a relaxed approach will help to facilitate smooth motion. The type of motion employed in playing will be reflected in the quality of sound. Relaxed motions will produce smooth, controlled sounds, while stiff motions will produce tight, constrained sounds. It is important that you strive for a relaxed approach.



THE DRUM AND ITS PARTS

Many parts are common to all drums of a drumset. The snare drum is used here as a model for pointing out the various features. Parts specific to individual drums are addressed in the appropriate sections.



1. The top head of the snare drum is referred to as the *batter head*, and is available with either a smooth finish or rough, sand-like coating. The bottom head is called the *snare head*. As a general rule, the bottom head should be thinner and slightly tighter than the batter head. In most cases, the batter head will determine the timbre of the drum, but this, of course, will depend on the thickness, resonance and condition of the head.