

# The Young Jazz Drummer:

## A Path to More Effective Swing and Other Tips

One of my purposes today is to encourage you to encourage your students to take up the set.

Around 1960 (British invasion, Beatles), excited a whole generation of kids to take up set. Prime reason for wanting to play drums.

Sales soared - garage bands, etc. –Radio stars of 70s-80s of this generation.

Tons of kids bought a kit and played. A revolution in music.

Big % of students don't play set today. 4 ADVANTAGES

1. Motivator
2. Chop builder, time, fills
3. Avocation for life
4. Make money

When a young drummer is learning to play set, he adapts to rock but jazz more foreign/nuanced.

Specifically the subject today is helping a young/beginning drummer to learn basics of jazz drumming through 'comping'. 90% of what a jazz drummer does.

I created 4 items mainly for your students.

1. I made a short Tutorial YouTube video on basics in jazz drumming
2. I put together a book of progressive exercises for a beginner to learn comping patterns. Learn time, snare/bass drum counterpoint.
3. A 2nd performance video of me playing the exercises.
4. Links to 2 MP3 recordings they can practice with (MM1) that have drum part written out. More fun to play with something!

## VIDEO

Sticks for jazz drumming:

a. Vic Firth Classic 5A or 7A – A-orchestra/jazz, B-band (thicker heavier), S-street/marching (heaviest). Higher the #, thinner/lighter the stick.

b. Vic Firth jazz series AJ6

d. No plastic tips

Drum brands – 5 piece with hardware - Recommendations to parents

a. Yamaha Stage Custom Birch, Tour Custom Maple

b. Pearl Export

c. Tama Superstar Classic - maple

\$1000 - 1500

## **Cymbal Brands – many choices!**

- a. A. Zildjian 20” Ride or Ping Ride and 16” Crash, 14” HH.**
- b. Sabian AA 20” Ride and AA 16” Crash – don’t buy cheapies.**

## **Set up and tuning**

- a. No different for left-handers**
- b. Heads – Remo Ambassador coated or clear**
- c. Tuning**
  - 1. Snare – lower in pitch than concert snare. Bottom heads ca. m3 lower (all drums)**
  - 2. Toms – jazz uses higher, more melodic tuning**
  - 3. Bass drum – higher than rock - muffling (Evans EQ Pad/pedal patch)**

## **Drummers must listen to jazz: A must for learning style/feel**

- a. Joe Morello – Standard time:**
- b. Jeff Hamilton trio – Live at Jazz Port**

## **Books for Beginning Jazz Drumming:**

- a. Syncopation – Ted Reed**
- b. Art of Bop Drumming – John Riley**
- c. Chart Reading WB for beginners – Bobby Gabriele**