





The Bucket Key

Below is the key to generating various sounds used when playing and practicing on the buckets as well as the pieces throughout this book.

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Strike in centre of bucket |
|  | Stick click This symbol indicates to the player to click one stick against the other. |
|  | Strike on rim This hollow square tells the player to hit the bucket on the edge or rim. |
|  | Flam A smaller eighth note (grace note) linked to another notation tells us to use both sticks to strike the bucket simultaneously. |

The Grip

The matched grip is the easiest and most natural way to hold drum sticks. To get a basic understanding of this technique, here's what to do. With your left hand, pinch the stick at the tip and hold it out in front of you. Next, with the right hand, pinch the same stick about 3/4 of the way down from the tip. Lastly, wrap the remaining fingers of your right hand loosely around the barrel of the stick and release with the left hand. You are now holding the stick in your right hand. Now pick up the other stick with your left hand. Be sure to pinch it in the same location as the right hand. As the name implies, both hands should 'match,' and they should be mirror images of each other. It is very common to extend the index finger using what I call 'pointy finger.' Do not do this! Aside from poor technique, using the pointy finger impedes the natural bounce of the stick. You could even hurt your finger if you continually strike the bucket with great force.

When you strike the bucket, bend the wrist as though you are knocking on a door. This will allow for natural speed to develop when playing. Try to avoid using too much arm movement or bending from the elbow.