

THE BASICS

Posture

Stand near your instrument, and always keep your:

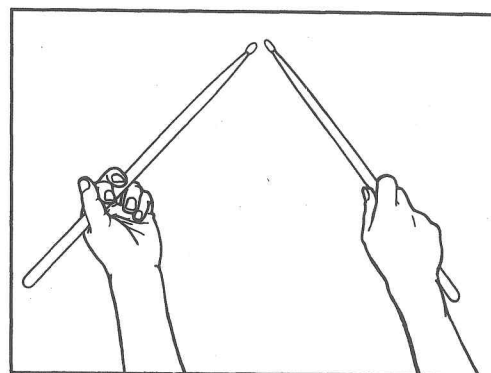
- Spine straight and tall
- Shoulders back and relaxed
- Feet flat on the floor

Traditional Grip

The traditional grip is another way to hold your snare drum sticks. Your teacher will tell you which grip you should use.

LEFT HAND

- Turn your left hand palm-down and open your fingers.
- With the tip pointing down, place the stick in the webbing of your thumb. About 1/3 – 1/4 of the stick should extend above the thumb.
- Turn your hand palm-up, and let the stick rest gently between your middle and ring fingers. The webbing of your thumb **holds** the stick in place. Your fingers simply **balance** it.
- The left forearm and wrist control the stick motion.



RIGHT HAND

- Follow the Matched Grip instructions on page 2 – Matched Grip.
- Check to be sure the sticks are cradled in the palm of your hand as shown:

Practice & Performance Position

- Put the practice pad on a flat surface slightly below your waist.
- Stand up straight with your arms relaxed at your side. Raise your forearms by bending your elbows.
- Form the outline of a large slice of pie with the sticks about 2 inches above the practice pad. Your left stick will be further away from your body than the right.
- Move your wrists to raise the sticks 6–8 inches from the practice pad. This is the “up” position.
- Begin with your right hand. Strike near the center using a quick, reflex-like wrist action. Let the stick return to the “up” position to prepare for the next strike.
- Follow with your left hand, and strike about 1 inch away from your first right hand strike. Return to the “up” position.
- When resting, keep the sticks about 2 inches above the practice pad or drum head in the outline of a large slice of pie.

Sticking Work-Outs

R = Right hand stick

L = Left hand stick

Play the following sticking work-out on your practice pad, keeping an even pulse when playing and resting:

● = Strike near the center of the practice pad.

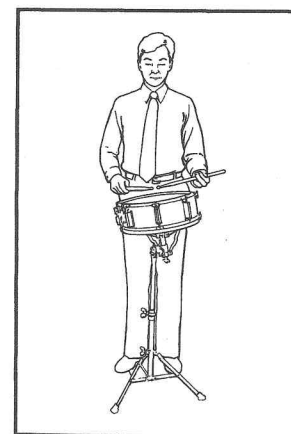
R ● **L** ● **R** ● **L** ● | **REST** | **R** ● **L** ● **R** ● **L** ● | **REST** |

You will learn several “sticking” methods in this book.

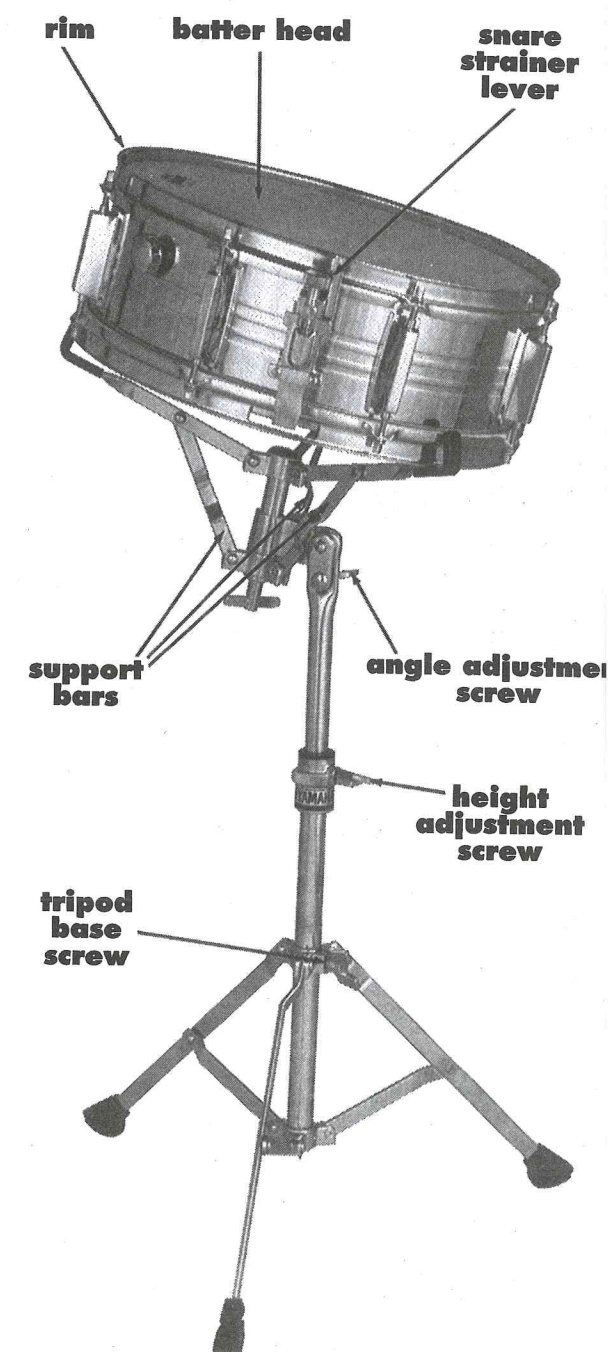
Setting it Together

The two ways to set up the snare drum depend on which grip you are using. Matched Grip = level drum set-up. Traditional Grip = angled drum set-up.

- Step 1** Open the bottom legs of the snare drum stand. Lock them into place by tightening the tripod base screw. Grasp the bar and raise stand below your waist. Tighten the height adjustment screw and lock into place.
- Step 2** Put the two support bars closest together in front of you. Be certain they are even. Put the remaining support bar on your left and raise it about 2 inches. Tighten the angle adjustment screw.
- Step 3** Carefully place the snare drum in the stand so the snare strainer lever faces you. The left side should be angled higher.
- Step 4** Slide the adjustable arm until it fits snugly against the shell of the drum. The top batter head should be slightly below your waist. Lock your drum stand into position. Tighten all screws each time you play.
- Step 5** Tighten the snare strainer. Tap the head of the snare drum. If the sound is not crisp, tighten or loosen the tension control screw. The snares should rest lightly against the bottom head. Stand by the drum as shown:



TRADITIONAL GRIP SNARE DRUM SET-UP



READING MUSIC

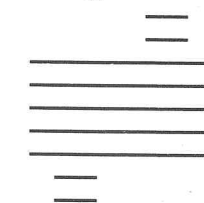
Identify and draw each of these symbols:

Music Staff



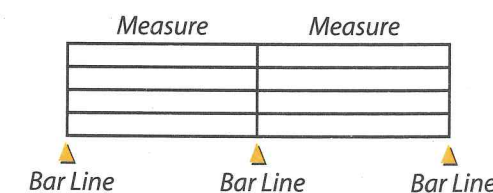
The **music staff** has 5 lines and 4 spaces where notes and rests

Ledger Lines



Ledger lines extend the music staff. Notes on ledger lines can be above or

Measures & Bar Lines



Bar lines divide the music staff into **measures**.