

BATTERY TECHNIQUE

(Snare Drum)

Grip and Form:

- 1) RELAX!
- 2) This year we will be performing on a tilted snare drum. This will lend itself to a more ergonomic left hand feel. For you guys who are used to playing on a flat surface, make sure to adjust your right hand so that it will approach the drum from the same angle as the left hand. You will not pick your neighbor's ears with your elbow.
- 3) The resting position of your beads will be about one inch above the surface of the drumhead. Your sticks will be at about a 90° angle from each other. There should be a slight downward angle of the sticks from the hand to the bead. Stick beads will always be together in the center of the head unless noted in the music or by an instructor. This has a ton to do with your individual sound quality, timing, and awareness. You will get a much bigger sound when you are striking the drum in the same place over and over again as opposed to roaming around the drumhead. Inability to keep your beads in the center of the head indicates a lack of awareness.
- 4) The thumb will be across from either the index finger or the middle finger (this is your right hand fulcrum), depending on the application. For anything requiring pressure, the index finger will be used. For any relaxation based exercise or excerpt, the middle finger will be used. This will become less of a visual change and more of an internal refocusing of energy.
- 5) Your left hand fulcrum is the web of skin between your thumb and index finger. This is where you will get pressure for multiple bounce.
- 6) It is very important that you hold the stick in the right place. If you choke too far up or down the stick, it will result in a significant loss of control and rebound.
- 7) DO NOT confuse relaxation with sloppy and uncontrollable playing.
- 8) Breathe while you play and keep your shoulders, neck and face relaxed. For instance, if you are clenching your jaw when you play, your brain is associating what you do with tension and it will eventually make its way down to your hands.
- 9) This is a general guideline to our technique. Laying out a technique guideline on paper is sketchy at best due to the many interpretations

each individual player will have of the information given. So use this as a guide and strap on your helmet for the season!

10) Go hogs!