

# BATTERY TECHNIQUE

## (Tenors)

Grip and Form:

- 1) RELAX!
- 2) The resting position of your mallets will be about one inch off of the drumhead. There will be a slight downward angle from the hand to the tip of the mallet. As for playing zones, if I had was computer savvy, I would draw them in. Unfortunately, I am not computer savvy. So, I will explain it the best I can. We have two spocks, then drums one, two, three and four moving down in pitch consecutively. The spocks should be played in the center of the head. Drums one and two should be played on the part of the head that is closest to you (southern part). Drum three should be played on the northwestern part of the head. And drum four should be played on the northeastern part of the head.
- 3) The thumb will be across from either the index finger or the middle finger (this is your 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) The tenor grip will follow the same basic principles as the snare grip, only using matched grip. You should approach playing splits around the drums the same way you would approach playing on one drum only.
- 6) DO NOT confuse relaxation with sloppy and uncontrollable playing.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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!
- 9) Go hogs!

