

GROVER

PRO PERCUSSION®

Percussion Primer *by Neil Grover*

BASS DRUM

TUNING

The bass drum is the lowest sounding, non-pitched member of the drum family. It should sound noticeably lower than any other instrument. Think of it as a non-pitched extension of the timpani. Tune the resonating (ringing) head slightly higher than batter (striking) head. Check for loose tension rods and any other “rattles”.

PLAYING AREA

GENERAL - half way between edge and center.
STACCATO - in center.
LEGATO - near edge.

STROKE

Pull sound out of drum! Use wrist AND arm motion with upstroke. Marches use short strokes near center using mainly wrist. Rolls use 2 mallets spread apart rolling slowly using wrist only!

MUFFLING

Use the right knee and left hand. For very short strokes leave knee on head while striking. (Lefties use left knee/right hand). Do not dampen the concert bass drum with tape on the head, or any muffling item placed inside the shell. Remember, the concert bass drum should sound very low and resonant!

INSTRUMENT SIZE

Bass drums are available in many different sizes. It is important to choose a drum that is proportionally suitable for the player. For younger students, a 28” diameter drum is suitable. For older players, a 32”-36” diameter drum works best.