

BASS LINE RECOMMENDATIONS

1. #2 Pencil with eraser (pack of 2)
2. One inch binder with non-glare sheet protectors
3. Highlighter (at least two colors)
4. Pencil pouch
5. Vic Firth Corpsmaster Marching Bass Mallets (MB0H-MB4H)
6. Ralph Hardimon's
7. White electrical tape
8. Heavy Hitter Slimpad with laminate
9. Vic Firth Heavy Hitter Bass Drum Practice Pad (optional)

Bass Drum Technique

Grip:

- Thumb and index finger should form a “T.” This is the fulcrum. Always maintain a firm grasp on the stick here.
- Do not “death grip” the stick. Your knuckles should not turn white.
- Other three fingers wrap naturally around the stick. Power comes from the contribution of all the fingers combined.
- There should be no gap between the thumb and the rest of the hand.
- Choke all the way back on the stick to ensure proper balance and maximum power. (Note: This is different from a snare drum stick.)
- The stick should rest in the meaty part of the palm.

Stroke:

- Forearm should be parallel to the ground. Thumbnail should point at the ceiling.
- Wrist should be held at a natural angle. (Think skateboard ramp.) The stick will be at about a 45 degree angle in relation to the forearm.
- Similar to playing snare drum, but on a vertical surface.
- All strokes are initiated from the wrist.
- The use of arms/fingers is necessary at quicker tempos.
- Two or more splits should be played with continuous motion.
- Your elbow should not move. Make sure your arm does not “flap.”

Bonus Tips:

- Stand straight up. Never lean back or forward. This is bad for your back.
- The split rule for the bass line applies when there are two or more splits, thus the last split in a series should be played as a down stroke.
- Always play in the center of the head. You can memorize this by using the lugs of your drum as a guide.

Posture

1. Eyes Laser Straight Ahead Aggressive
2. Head upChin up
3. Stand up straight, No Leaning!!