

Track 1: Tambourine

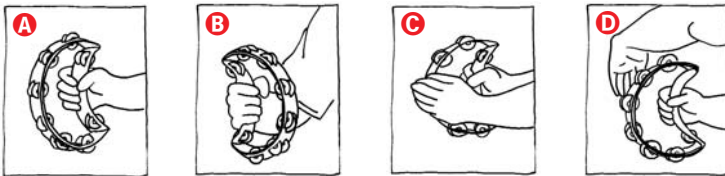
The tambourine is an ancient and nearly universal percussion instrument. Variations of this classic frame drum with jingles can be found from India (where it is called the Kanjira) to Brazil (where it is known as the Pandeiro) as well as throughout Europe, the Middle East and the U.S. Today, tambourines continue to be used in religious and classical music all over the world and in contemporary styles that include ethnic, R&B, pop and rock.

By developing the original, crescent-shaped Rhythm Tech Tambourine 25 years ago, Rhythm Tech modernized the tambourine— adding an ergonomic balance and incorporating the use of modern materials to significantly improve the instrument's sound and performance in studio and live situations.

The "Back-And-Forth" Technique

The standard rock tambourine technique produces 8th or 16th notes by holding the tambourine in the right hand and moving it back and forth from right (A) to left (B). The left hand is used to accent the main beats by bringing it into contact with the tambourine as it moves towards the left (C). To accent the off beats, cup the fingers of the left hand so that they can cross over the center section of the tambourine and make contact with the back side of the tambourine as it moves back to the right (D).

For more complicated patterns, try hitting the tambourine lightly on your chest on one or more of the main beats. This will allow you to position your left hand to accent the off beats with much less wrist movement.



The "Door Knob" Technique

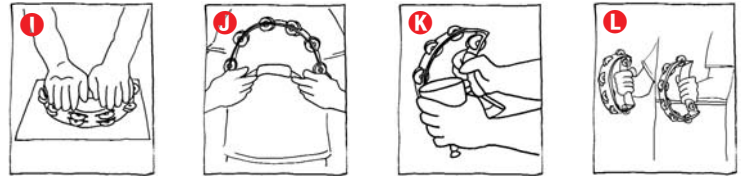
This technique produces a similar result to the Back-and-Forth technique, although in a quite different way. The "Door Knob" playing style creates the basic 8th or 16th note pulse by rotating the tambourine as though you are turning a door knob down (E) and up (F). The main beats occur at the top of the tambourine (G) and the off beats are played on the bottom edge of the frame (H).

The "Door Knob" style is more conducive to playing triplets and shuffle feels as well as faster tempos.



Alternate, Classical and World Percussion Techniques

While most drummers and percussionists, as well as the many vocalists and other musicians, who play tambourine are generally familiar with the basic techniques used in pop music, some of the traditional techniques used for headed tambourines in classical and ethnic styles can be adapted for the headless tambourine and pop music styles.



- *Classical style (I) - Place tambourine on table or a knee and play it with both hands or a pair of sticks to achieve complex rhythmic patterns. The tambourine can also be held under-hand horizontally with the left hand while the right hand plays a rhythm on the edge of the frame.*

- *World style (J) – Hold the tambourine horizontally with one or both hands and shake it up and down to achieve a more flowing straight-eighth, triplet or shuffle feel.*

- *The back and forth technique can also be employed when holding a cowbell in the left hand (K) or when playing two tambourines against each other (L) for increased volume and power.*

Tambourine Exercises For Live and Studio Applications

Practice these exercises using the recommended techniques at various tempos. Experiment with half-time, regular-time and double-time feels.



Performance Note: Accessory percussion instruments can be used to enhance the sound, texture and feel of contemporary music in many ways. They can be played individually to add intensity or in combination with one another to produce a multi-layered effect. They can be used sparsely to create a rhythmic hook, in specific sections to help establish the form of a song or in a consistent, repeated pattern throughout an entire track. The key to determining which instruments will be used and when lies in experimenting, keeping an open mind and using your ears to discover what's right for the music you're playing. Among professional percussionists the standard rule of thumb is "When in doubt, leave it out".