



# Snare Drum Grips and Strokes

by Julie Davila



## Matched Grip

1. Fulcrum between thumb and first finger on both hands. Thumb should be across from the second knuckle of the first finger.
2. The stick should be held through the palm of the hand, with all fingers remaining on the stick.
3. Palms should face down.
4. The flow of the stick should be straight back in the direction of the forearm, towards the elbow.
5. Tips in the center of the head.
6. Elbows relaxed and under the shoulders.

## Traditional Grip

1. Right hand should follow tips listed above for matched grip.
2. Left hand palm facing to the side. (Like shaking someone's hand)
3. Fulcrum is in the space at the bottom of the thumb, between the thumb and first finger.
4. Stick should rest on or before the first knuckle of the fourth finger.
5. The first two fingers loosely rest on the top of the stick.
6. The thumb should touch the first knuckle of the first finger.
7. Rotate the wrist as if turning a door knob for the correct motion.
8. 3rd and 4th fingers should always follow the stick.

## Set Up

1. Stand up straight.
2. Drum should be approximately waist high.
3. Arms and elbows relaxed.
4. Find a comfortable distance from the drum.
5. Keep the sticks in the center of the drum.



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## Legato Stroke

1. Bounce stroke that has continuous motion. Each stroke returns to the height of the first stroke. Wrist motion with slight finger control.

## Accent with a Rebound

1. A legato stroke *mf-ff* that rebounds to original height. Multiple accents in a row.
2. Usually used in passages without accents with the dynamic range of *mf-ff*.

## Accents Without a Rebound

1. Legato stroke *mf-ff* that does not rebound. Accent that prepares for a rest or tap (unaccented note).
2. Wrist control with a slight squeeze from the fingers to keep the stick down after it has been played.

## Taps (inner beats, unaccented notes)

1. A stroke that is played approximately 1" to 3" above the head.
2. The notes within an accent pattern that is not accented.
3. Mostly fingers with slight wrist motion.
4. May be utilized for *p-mp* passages.

## Upstrokes

1. Unaccented notes or taps that prepare for an accent.
2. Dynamic change from *p* or *mp* to *mf* or *f*.
3. Wrist motion.

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