

Fundamentals of Concert Snare Drumming

Positioning of the Drum

Set height of drum slightly below belt buckle

Angle drum slightly toward yourself

Snare strainer at your waist with snares running across bottom head away from you

Stance / Body Position

Stand naturally with feet spread shoulder width apart

Stand with stomach about an inch from the drum

Playing Area

For General playing, about 2/3 in from the edge, directly over snares, sticks about two fingers width apart

For Softer playing, closer to edge, directly over snares, sticks a thumbs width apart

Center of drum reserved for special effects, accents, or color changes

Positioning of the Arms and Hands

Hang arms in a natural position to the side of your body

Bend arm at elbow as if to shake hands

Rotate hands inwards approximately 70°

Positioning of the Stick in Hands

Remains unchanged regardless of dynamic level

Stick lies naturally at an angle across the back of the hand

Not perfectly in line with forearm

Not out under fingers away from hand

Stick held at optimal point for maximum rebound

Grip / Fulcrum

Remains unchanged regardless of dynamic level

3 point fulcrum: Thumb, index finger, and middle finger

Thumb – flat and straight against the stick, as much flesh on stick as possible

Index Finger - Stick held in last knuckle of index finger

Middle Finger – contacts stick just inside of last knuckle, part fulcrum, part control

Ring finger – loosely contacts the stick but is used mainly used for louder dynamics

Pinky – mostly unused, relaxed, held against ring finger

The Stroke

Relaxed, natural motion

Resembles throwing a baseball or dribbling a basketball

Starts with big muscles (shoulder, arm) and then small muscles (wrist, finger)

Soft Playing

Hands in a relaxed but fixed position

Strokes initiated by large muscle groups (shoulder, arm)

Stick lies against back of hand, not held away from palm

Fulcrum and fingers serve as rebound control

Rolls

Hands in a relaxed but controlled position

Stroke initiated by large muscle groups (arm, elbow)

Rebound controlled by small muscles (fingers, fulcrum)