

# Zildjian® DRUM SET METHOD



BY **MARK WESSELS**  
WITH VIDEO LESSONS FROM  
**WAYNE SALZMANN II**

**INCLUDING FREE video lessons**  
Available at [www.zildjian.com/education](http://www.zildjian.com/education)

# INTRODUCTION

There are countless books, websites, apps, videos and social channels all devoted to teaching you how to play drums. With a pretty broad range in quality and depth of lesson content, we wanted to take a slightly different approach. Our goal for this Drum Method project isn't to replace the thousands of other resources available. It's to **INSPIRE PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES THROUGH MUSIC** by providing trusted, guided lessons, and a motivating experience that helps get your feet wet with music and percussion. As the global leaders in cymbals, drumsticks, and mallets, we at the Avedis Zildjian Company are committed to helping create the next generation of musicians, artists, and/or music lovers.

For every student who fully commits to buying a drum set and signing up for lessons, there are countless other people who are interested in the drums, but either don't know where to start or aren't sure if they're ready to jump in head-first. That's where the Zildjian Drum Set Method comes in. Start with the first lesson - you don't need drums or sticks to get started, and it's totally free.

If your dream is to one day play in a band, or even to become a 'good enough' drummer to be able to play along with your favorite tunes, then we **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** that you take lessons from a qualified drum teacher.

For the drum teachers out there, we think you're going to love having this resource available. In the planning and production of this series, we wanted to give the student a rock-solid drumming foundation and well-rounded knowledge, delivered in a fast-paced, user friendly environment. We hope you'll consider incorporating it into your current curriculum.

**READY TO GET STARTED?** We hope you enjoy using this book & video series, joining a growing community of music-makers with every step, and maybe even joining the Zildjian family in the future!

# ABOUT US

## THE AVEDIS ZILDJIAN COMPANY



### THE WORLD'S LEADING MAKER OF CYMBALS, DRUMSTICKS, AND MALLETS

The Zildjian Company has been synonymous with setting the standard for the development and manufacture of high performance musical instruments since 1623. As the world's leading maker of cymbals, drumsticks, and percussion mallets, Zildjian products are sold across the globe, under the Zildjian®, Vic Firth®, and Balter™ brands, and are the standard to which all other cymbals, drumsticks and mallets are measured. From the beginner to the world's greatest rock stars, jazz performers and concert percussionists, amateurs and pros alike choose Zildjian, Vic Firth, and Balter products to allow them to experience and share the joy of music.

Headquartered in Norwell, Massachusetts with offices in Newport, ME, Los Angeles, CA, London, UK, and Singapore, Zildjian products are sold globally through distributors and via a network of dealers. All Zildjian instruments are made in the USA at our cymbal factory in Norwell, MA and drumstick/mallet factory in Newport, ME.

The Zildjian logo is rendered in a highly stylized, cursive script. The letters are thick and black, with a classic, elegant feel. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the end of the word.

[WWW.ZILDJIAN.COM](http://WWW.ZILDJIAN.COM)

## MARK WESSELS

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION • ZILDJIAN® | VIC FIRTH® | BALTER MALLETS™

*Author of the "Zildjian Drum Set Method"*

Mark Wessels is an internationally respected author and educator. As a publisher, his "Fresh Approach" method books are among the most successful in the world, with over 300,000 copies in print.

From 1983-2000, Mark taught percussion in some of the most successful public school programs in Texas and launched one of the first internet sites devoted to percussion education. As a result, he was hired as the "Director of Internet Activities" in 2000 for the Vic Firth Company and built one of the most popular online destinations for drummers today. Through the years at Vic Firth, Mark created the vast library of educational resources, many of which were ground breaking in its day. From Essential Rudiments, Groove Essentials and other popular posters to video lessons, play-along tracks, "In the Lot" and "Learn the Music" videos, Mark has been at the forefront of percussion education for over two decades.

During his tenure at Zildjian, Mark has also been responsible for producing thousands of drum set, marching and concert performance videos from all over the world. Working with other dedicated members of the Zildjian team, he also produced and directed the popular "Zildjian Underground," "Zildjian Live" and "vfJAMS" video series. Outside of his work at Zildjian, Mark continues to publish new projects through his website at [WWW.MWPUBLICATIONS.COM](http://WWW.MWPUBLICATIONS.COM).



## WAYNE SALZMANN II

*Host of the "Zildjian Drum Set Method" Video Lesson Series*

Wayne Salzmann II is a drummer, educator, author, and composer based in Austin, Texas. He has been the Drum Set Instructor at the University of Texas at Austin for over a decade and has given clinics and masterclasses worldwide.

In addition to his extensive touring and recording with Grammy winning guitar virtuoso Eric Johnson and iconic songwriter Bob Schneider, Salzmann has also performed and/or recorded with Steve Miller, Kenny Rogers, Kris Kristofferson, Christopher Cross, Joe Satriani, Mike Stern, Robben Ford, Chris Potter, Dick Oatts, Bill Watrous, Diane Schuur, Bobby Shew, UT Jazz Faculty,

San Antonio Symphony, and many others. He has hundreds of recording credits, including a Billboard no. 1 Jazz record, a Billboard no. 1 Blues record, and feature film soundtracks.

Wayne's book "Developing Melodic Language on the Drums" has received high acclaim from legendary drummers Peter Erskine, Ed Soph, Carl Allen, John Riley, and from *Modern Drummer Magazine*. He currently serves as a member of the Drum Set Committee for the Percussive Arts Society, and is an artist/clinician for DW Drums, Pedals, & Hardware, Zildjian Cymbals, Remo Drumheads, and Vic Firth Drumsticks. Keep up with Wayne at [WWW.WAYNESALZMANN.COM](http://WWW.WAYNESALZMANN.COM).

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# HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Fundamentally, there is no “right” or “wrong” way to approach any book, but here are a few suggestions that might help you get the most out of the Zildjian Drum Set Method.

If you’re a first-day beginner, you’ll obviously want to start at the beginning and progress through each lesson in succession. This method introduces skills that build from one to the next. If you’ve been playing a while, we recommend that you skim through the first part of the book to make sure you understand the concepts and can play all of the material included in each of the lessons.

In addition to learning the fundamentals of how to play the drums, this book also includes a significant amount of information about the gear you’ll be using – necessary info which is often omitted from other beginner drum methods. We believe that knowing how each piece of gear functions and how to fine tune your setup is an important part of learning about the drums.

Unless you’re studying privately with a qualified drum instructor, the free VIDEO LESSONS available on zildjian.com are a crucial part of this method. In the videos, Wayne Salzman takes you step-by-step through each lesson, introducing concepts and demonstrating the fundamentals of each new technique, groove and fill. We encourage you to pick up your sticks and play along instead of simply watching the videos.



At the top of each lesson you can scan a QR CODE with a mobile device that will take you directly to the content available on the Zildjian website. Be sure to take advantage of the resources available. The content includes video lessons, play-along tracks and extended educational material that we were not able to fit in the pages of this book. If you wish to view the website on a desktop or laptop computer, bookmark the address for the full lesson series:

**[www.zildjian.com/education/zildjian-drum-set-method.html](http://www.zildjian.com/education/zildjian-drum-set-method.html)**

We’ll leave you with one final thought. The key to becoming successful is to ALWAYS HAVE FUN! As with any worthwhile endeavor, there may be times when you become frustrated. We encourage you to take a step away from the book during each practice session and play along to some of your favorite tunes. Not only will you have fun, but by using your ears and listening to music created with professional drummers, you’ll develop a sense of how to create parts that serve the music – which is the true role of all great drummers.

Good luck on your journey!



## THE CRASH CYMBAL

### THE ZILDJIAN FAMILY STORY

The crash cymbal is part of the world's shared history. The Zildjian family has been part of that history since 1618 when Avedis I, the son of an Armenian metalsmith in Constantinople, Turkey, was commissioned by Sultan Osman II to make gold by fusing base metals – a process known as alchemy.

Although Avedis wasn't able to create gold, he discovered a unique blend of cooper, tin and silver that produced brilliant sound qualities. This highly durable alloy could be flattened, shaped into sheets and lathed, all without compromising its structural integrity, which made the metal perfect for creating cymbals. This secret alloy is the same closely guarded recipe that the Zildjian family uses today to produce the world's best sounding cymbals.

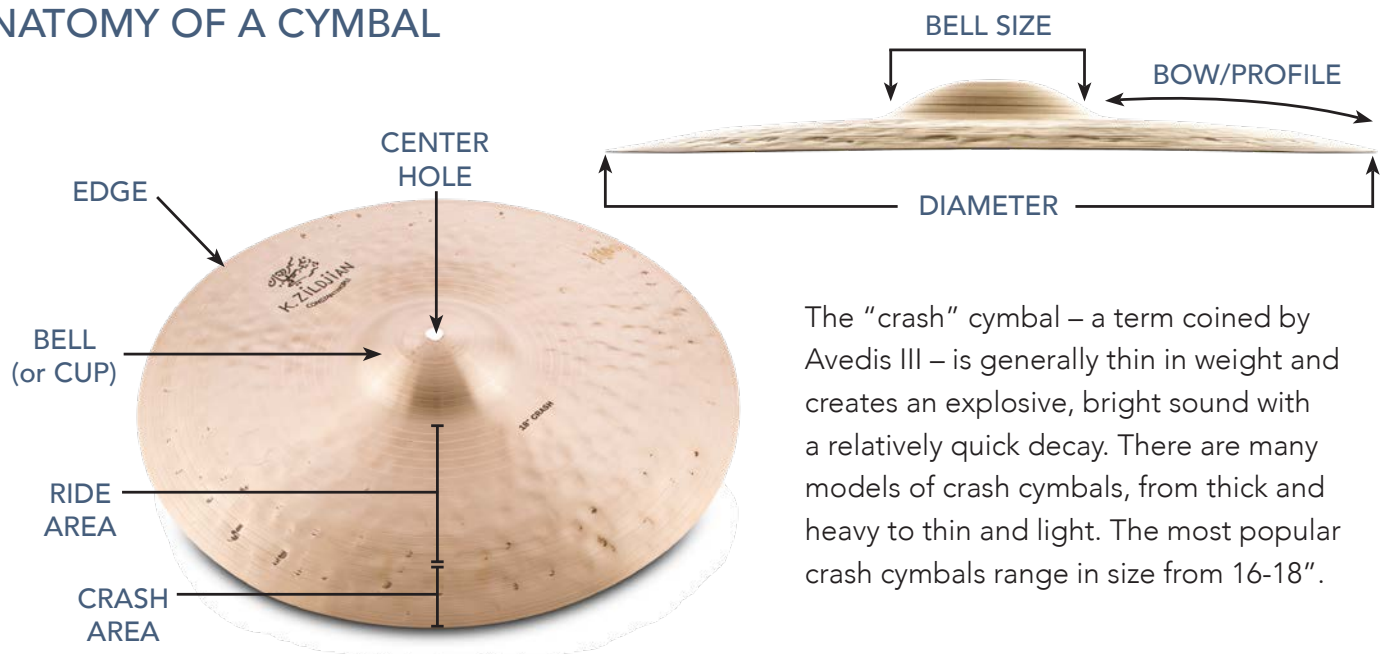


Avedis' uniquely crafted cymbals quickly became the standard for use in the Turkish Janissary bands. In 1623, the sultan granted Avedis the tile "ZILDJIAN" – a combination of ZIL ("cymbal"), DJI ("maker") and IAN ("son of"). With that blessing, the Avedis Zildjian Company was formed.

Throughout nearly 400 years of history, Zildjian has maintained its status as the world's premier cymbal maker. From 1623 to today, drummers and percussionists around the world have turned to the sound of Zildjian cymbals as the "gold standard". It looks like Avedis was able to create gold after all.

Take some time to read about the fascinating history of the Avedis Zildjian Company and learn how cymbals are made at [www.zildjian.com/brand-journeys](http://www.zildjian.com/brand-journeys).

### ANATOMY OF A CYMBAL



The "crash" cymbal – a term coined by Avedis III – is generally thin in weight and creates an explosive, bright sound with a relatively quick decay. There are many models of crash cymbals, from thick and heavy to thin and light. The most popular crash cymbals range in size from 16-18".

## CYMBAL STAND SET-UP

The base of the cymbal stand is the same as the snare stand, but generally there are more posts so that you can raise the cymbal to your desired height. Cymbal stands have a tilting mechanism and some include a “boom” arm so that you have more flexibility with where the stand is positioned on the kit.

To keep your cymbals from unnecessary damage, it’s important to have sleeves, bottom and top felts and a wing nut. The cymbal should be able to move freely, so avoid over tightening the wing nut.

Position the crash cymbal within easy reach at a slight angle. You should be able to play with the tip of the stick on the bell or bow as well as being able to crash with the shoulder of the stick on the edge.



## CRASH CYMBAL STROKE

To avoid damage to your sticks or cymbals, always strike them with a “glancing blow” – either by drawing the stick away from the cymbal immediately after you strike it, or by using a “J” (or backwards “L”) stroke.

Practice these two exercises with a metronome so you can learn to play a crash without losing tempo in the groove. In the first, you’ll return to the hi-hat on the upbeat immediately after the crash (which requires a quick wrist motion). In the 2nd exercise, return to the hi-hat WITH the backbeat on count 2.



## MUSICAL PHRASES

Cymbal crashes can serve to shape the form of a musical phrase, but they can be disruptive if played too often. Use this exercise to practice playing a crash at the beginning of an 8 bar phrase. Keep track of where you are in the 8 measure phrase by counting out loud while you play.

