

# 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 small registered trademark symbol (®) at the end of the word. The font is elegant and traditional, reflecting the brand's long history.

[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 RIDE CYMBAL

The RIDE cymbal is generally the largest, heaviest cymbal on the drum set. We use it to play “over-riding” patterns within grooves, so it has a bigger, darker sound with more stick definition than a crash cymbal. Ride cymbals can vary in size from 19-24”, but the most popular are 20-22”.

You can produce a wide variety of sounds on the ride cymbal. Overall, the “sweet spot” to get a full, dark sound with the good stick definition is about 3-4” from the edge (1).

Playing closer to the edge (2) produces a darker, “washy” sound with less stick definition. To get a very heavy, washy sound with a LOT of sustain, you can also play with the shoulder of the stick on the very edge of the cymbal.

As you move closer to the bell (3), the cymbal sound becomes thin, bright and “pingy,” with a lot of high frequency overtones.



Playing ride patterns on the bell of the cymbal is very common in drum grooves. Using the tip of the stick will produce a thin, light, articulate sound. Playing with the shoulder of the stick will produce a bolder, more piercing sound.

You can also use the ride cymbal to play a dark, heavy crash by using the shaft of the stick on the edge. Remember to always use a glancing “J” (or “L”) stroke when playing a crash on the cymbal.

## RIDE CYMBAL POSITION / RIGHT HAND “FRENCH GRIP”

Position the ride cymbal at a slight angle within easy reach of the right hand. Without the toms on the kit, you should be able to easily rotate the hand from the “American Grip” position on the snare drum to the “French Grip” at the sweet spot on the ride cymbal – without having to move your elbow.



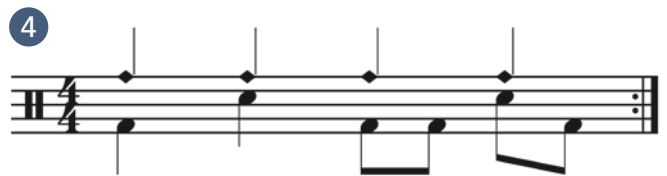
## RIDE CYMBAL GROOVES

The ride cymbal is notated with an 'x' on the top line of the staff. When playing 8th note ride patterns on the cymbal, allow the fingers to move freely to produce a relaxed, open sound. Play these two, then go back to Lesson 10 and use the "combos" to come up with more of your own.



## QUARTER NOTE RIDE PATTERNS

When playing on the bell of the ride cymbal (notated with a ♦), it usually sounds better to use quarter notes instead of 8ths on the ride pattern. The coordination required is a little more difficult because the bass drum will often have to play upbeats 'between' the right hand downbeats.



You can play ANY of the previous grooves you've learned with a quarter note ride pattern. To get a heavy "punk rock" sound, try playing the quarter note ride at a much faster tempo with the shoulder of the stick on a half-open hi-hat – or on the edge of the crash cymbal.

## ADDING THE HI-HAT 'CHICK'

Another way to add texture to your ride cymbal grooves is to add the left foot on the downbeats. This is very challenging because it requires FOUR WAY coordination.

