

# 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 elegant flourishes and a sense of movement. 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!



## DOWN / TAP / UP STROKES

Adding new stroke styles are not only important for developing great hand technique, but mastering them will bring more dynamics into your playing – creating a better feel in your grooves and fills.

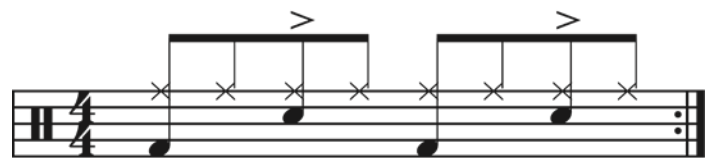
### DOWN STROKE (“Controlled Stroke”)

A down stroke (sometimes called a “accented stroke”) is played at a higher volume level and height than surrounding unaccented notes. To gain control over the rebound, you’ll need to stop the stick after it strikes the drum. The down stroke **STARTS HIGH AND ENDS LOW**.



To learn the down stroke, play three full strokes, then stop the stick 2-3” above the drum on the last stroke with a gentle cushioning of the stick with the back fingers into the palm of the hand.

Because the snare backbeat in most grooves are accented (and do not rebound), they are generally played as **DOWN STROKES**.



To fully understand how to approach these new stroke styles, be sure to watch the video for this lesson at [zildjian.com/education](http://zildjian.com/education).

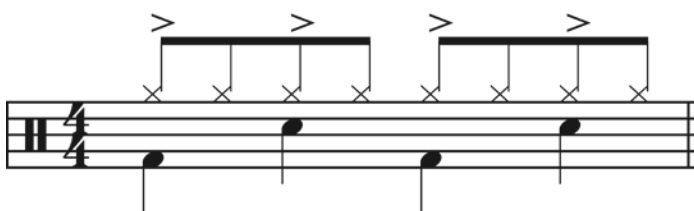
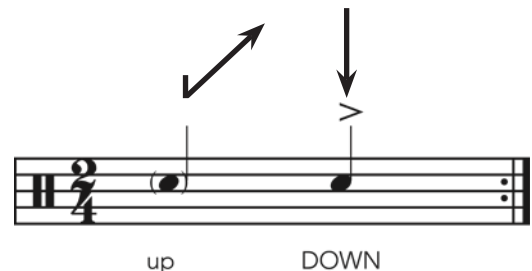
### TAP STROKE (“Ghost Note”)

A tap stroke is played 2-3” off the head with a relaxed wrist motion. Because tap strokes are very soft, they are often called “ghost notes.” You’ll often see ghost notes notated with parenthesis around the note head.



### UP STROKE

An upstroke **STARTS LOW AND ENDS HIGH** (like a checkmark (✓)). Play a soft tap and lift the stick to the full height position. The upstroke is followed by an accented stroke.



This “down-up” motion is often used in the ride pattern to create a strong downbeat feel. Drummers often refer to this as the “**PUSH-PULL**” technique.

## ACCENT PATTERNS

Once you've developed control over the down, tap and up strokes in the hands separately, you can learn some common accent patterns that you'll be able to use in grooves and fills. Start each of these exercises slowly, starting on the right AND the left.

For a challenge, try adding the feet to your accent patterns.

## 8TH RESTS 9

An 8th REST takes the place of an 8th NOTE in the following exercises. You can practice more 8th note/rest reading exercises in the **ZILDJIAN RHYTHM CARDS** on [zildjian.com](http://zildjian.com).

## FILLS USING THE 8TH REST

Work up each of these fills with a metronome, then play it in the last measure of a 4 or 8 bar phrase.