



Ted Sirota Drum Studio

@Boocoo

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METHOD BOOKS

**All students will be required to purchase the following two books.*

- **SYNCPATION** for the Modern Drummer - by Ted Reed
- **STICK CONTROL** - by George Lawrence Stone

**Some students may be required to purchase one or more of the following method books.*

- **ALFRED'S BEGINNING DRUM SET METHOD** – by Dave Black & Sandy Feldstein
- **PROGRESSIVE INDEPENDENCE FOR THE JAZZ DRUMMER** – by Ron Spagnardi
- **ADVANCED TECHNIQUES FOR THE MODERN DRUMMER** – by Jim Chapin

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

1. A pair of **drum sticks**
2. A **practice pad** or a **snare drum** with a stand
3. A **metronome** with an earphone jack
4. A spiral manuscript notebook and a pocket **folder**.

CANCELLATION POLICY

All lessons at Ted Sirota's Drum Studio are subject to the 24-hour cancellation policy. If at least 24 hours' notice of a cancellation is given, then a makeup lesson will be scheduled at the earliest possible date or the lesson will be credited towards the following month's payment. If less than 24 hours' notice is given, students will be charged for the scheduled lesson and no makeup lesson or credit will be given. There are no exceptions to this policy. Thank you for your cooperation.

PAYMENT POLICY

Lessons are \$50.00/hour and \$25.00/half-hour. Payment for the month's lessons is due at the first lesson of each month. We accept cash or checks. *Please make checks payable to EV Productions.* Payments not received by the scheduled time are subject to a \$5.00 late fee. Receipts are available upon request.

LESSON FAQ'S

Q - What kind of drum sticks should I get, where should I buy them and how much do they cost?

A – Any name brand drum stick is fine, and a 5A stick is a good all around stick to start with. Some well-known stick brands are Vic Firth, Regal Tip, Pro Mark, Zildjian, Vater, and Johnny Rabb. Avoid the “store brand”, or generic sticks as they are often reject sticks that are warped or have some other minor defect. Any music store that carries drum equipment should carry a large variety of sticks. Sticks are usually between \$7.00 - \$10.00 a pair.

Q – Where can I get the music books and how much do they cost?

A – If you're in Evanston, you can purchase the books at Music Unlimited. Elsewhere, Guitar Center and Sam Ash should have them, or any decent sheet music store. The Drum Pad in Palatine has a large selection of drum books and I highly recommend them if you can make it out there. Books can also be ordered online at various sites, including **Amazon.com**. The books range in price from about \$7.00 - \$15.00.

Q – What kind of practice pad should I purchase?

A – I recommend the “Real Feel” pads made by HQ. These can be found at the Drum Pad, Guitar Center and the Sound Post in Skokie, among other places.

Q – How much do I need to practice?

A – There isn't one single answer for this question. It depends on your level of experience, age, goals etc. *Generally, beginners you should practice 30 minutes a day.* The key is to try to achieve some level of consistency. Practicing is very similar to exercising. If you only exercise once a week for two hours it's going to be hard to get into shape. It's better than nothing, but it's not going to be as beneficial as consistently exercising 30 minutes a day. So it would be better to practice 20 minutes a day than to try to cram everything in the night before your lesson. More serious drummers will need more practice time, & would have to determine what works for them. Many professional drummers, including myself, have spent long stretches of time where they would practice 4-8 hours a day, 7 days a week!

Q – Should I buy a drum set and if so what kind should I get?

A – This is probably the question I get the most from students and parents. I would like to help everybody out with this dilemma, but if I'm not careful I can end up being a personal consultant for twenty different people, which I don't have the time for. So, here are my thoughts... If you are a beginner, in my opinion, it's best to wait for about a year

before you make any decision to purchase a drum set. There is much to learn and absorb with just a pair of sticks and a practice pad. Students that take the time to practice and learn the proper technique, to read music, and learn the basics of drumming will be better off in the long run. Some students (adults and children alike) are too impatient to stick with just the pad, or are just too excited by the prospect of having a drum set and can't wait. Adults can do what they want to do! But I recommend that parents wait to make sure that their child is serious about playing before dropping \$800.00 on a drum set. See the attached sheet regarding purchasing a drum set for a more detailed explanation on what to look for when purchasing drums.