

Tom Hipskind Private Instruction

List of recommended method books

Stick Control for the Snare Drummer, George Lawrence Stone (Technique) First published in 1935. Long considered the bible of drumming technique, "Stick Control" is an absolute killer. I swear by it (and often AT it, haha) as the most effective method, bar none, to gain greater control and fluidity with my hands. Plus, although it's generally a "hands-only" book, over the years I've found many ways to incorporate the feet in certain sections.

Advanced Techniques for the Modern Drummer, Jim Chapin (Jazz independence/coordination) Like "Stick Control", I never seem to outgrow this and am still working to master the material within (I still own my copy I purchased around 1980!). Considered "unplayable" when it was first written in 1948. Basically a long set of one-bar exercises and short melody lines to play underneath the jazz ride cymbal pattern. I spotlight the idea of doing all exercises not only with the left hand on the snare drum, but also right foot bass drum and left foot hihat. This helps the player gain greater levels of coordination that are expected of drummers today.

Progressive Steps to Syncopation for the Modern Drummer, Ted Reed (Technique, reading, coordination) Seamlessly blends reading exercises with basic-to-advanced technical sections. I have extensively applied many of the sections in "Syncopation" to other methods and other books such as "The New Breed". Can be used with a very open-ended approach.

Modern Rudimental Swing Solos for the Advanced Drummer, Charles Wilcoxon (Jazz-oriented snare drum solos) A very challenging collection of solos (instead of exercises only) that work on not just technique and chops but also reading and concentration. Rudiments are applied heavily in the solos.

The New Breed, Gary Chester (Drum set independence/coordination, time/groove playing, reading) An extremely versatile and open-ended book comprised of what the author calls "systems", which consist of three-limb time patterns and extensive reading exercises that are played with the fourth limb. Systems range in difficulty from very basic to infinitely complex, and reading can be done from pretty much any text (like "Syncopation"). The student is also encouraged to devise their own systems and use the opportunity to take the approach presented here in their own direction. There's also **The New Breed 2** which contains more systems, reading, and other ideas. I use them both in conjunction with each other in my own practice.

Groove Essentials 1.0 and 2.0, Tommy Igoe (book/CD pkg) (Play-along tracks, chart reading, groove/musicality studies) An invaluable resource to aid in one's overall musical development. There are around 100 complete play-along tracks in both volumes, in all sorts of musical styles, complete with basic-yet-detailed charts to read.

Future Sounds, David Garibaldi (Funk drumming, time patterns, permutations) This is a fun and interesting book that applies a few different principles to basic time playing, such as the single paradiddle. Garibaldi introduces what he calls the "Two sound-level concept" and offers multiple rhythmic permutations of many interesting grooves he's devised over the years. CD included of the author playing many exercises.

Groove Alchemy, Stanton Moore (Groove concept studies) An encyclopedia of grooves from the great drummers of James Brown, The Meters' Zigaboo Modeliste, and many others. Comprehensive analysis and historical perspective make this a wonderful resource for any drummer wishing to develop their groove vocabulary to a greater level. There's also a DVD video of the same title that works in tandem with the book.

Beyond Bop Drumming, John Riley (Jazz independence/coordination and jazz concept) This is the follow-up to Riley's highly successful first book, **The Art of Bop Drumming**. It introduces advanced jazz ideas and concepts put forth by great jazz artists in the 1960s and beyond such as Tony Williams, Elvin Jones, Roy Haynes, Jack DeJohnette and others. Many exercises are contained as well as annotations of examples from classic recordings. CD included with listening and play-alongs.

The Drummer's Complete Vocabulary, as taught by Alan Dawson, John Ramsay (Technique/rudiments, drumset coordination) This is John Ramsay's iteration of Alan Dawson's teaching method, complete with over 40 different ways to interpret Ted Reed's Syncopation book. I've been using it more and more lately. The Syncopation interpretations are very much like a "New Breed" system for more jazz-oriented playing.

Other books I like and use occasionally are:

The Art of Modern Jazz Drumming, Jack DeJohnette/Charlie Perry (Modern jazz concept, solo ideas, coordination exercises)

Ultimate Drumset Reading Anthology, Steve Houghton (Studio, big band chart reading)

Four-Way Coordination, Marvin Dalhgren/Elliot Fine (Advanced four-limb independence)