

Tenor Setup Guidelines

The following guidelines will create a uniform setup for the tenor line

1. **Natural Curve of the Hand:** All fingers and the thumb should assume their natural position as if the arm was hanging down by the side. Relaxation of the fingers and hands is crucial. All fingers should make contact on the stick/mallets. See stroke guidelines.
2. **Starting Position:** Which drums you start over will depend on the music. See photos for playing zones on each drum. The butt end of the stick/mallet should be slightly elevated.
3. **Relaxed Elbows/Shoulders:** Start by exhaling and rolling back your shoulders - relax. This will help the elbows to rest comfortably in a direct line downward from the shoulders. Avoid making contact with the elbow to the body.
4. **Mallet Placement:** Again, see photos for appropriate mallet placement on each drum. The mallet heads will rest about 1/4" off the drum head.



Tenor Drum Grip Guidelines

The following guidelines will provide the tenor drummer with a consistent approach for holding the sticks.

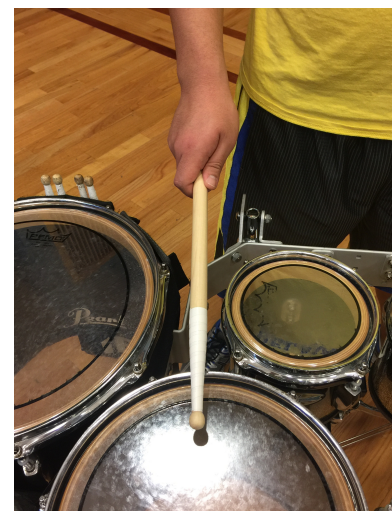
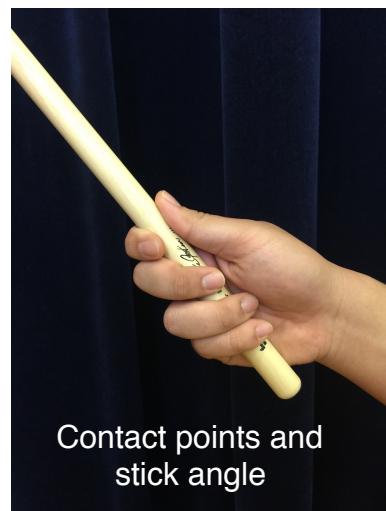
1. Finger and Thumb Contact Points:

- The pad of the thumb and index finger (at the first knuckle) will grip the stick/mallet.
- There should be little to no space between the side of the thumb and the side of the hand.
- Hold the stick about 1/3 of the way up the shaft.
- The other three fingers should be curved and relaxed around the stick.
- All fingers will make contact with the stick with a bit of “breathing room” between the stick and the palm.
- The stick will be an extension of the forearm - see palm angle

2. **Palm Angle:** When the tip of the stick makes contact with the drumhead, the palm's angle will be approximately 45 degrees. This will create a natural extension of the stick from your forearm. You will not see the butt end of the sticks.

3. **Fulcrum:** This is where the stick pivots. The fulcrum is between the thumb and the index finger. The middle finger may be added to this for certain passages of music. The fulcrum must be maintained at all times.

4. **Pressure Points:** The pressure points are at the fulcrum. The amount of pressure at the fulcrum will change depending on what is needed for the music. For example, fast rolls and buzz rolls will require more pressure. High dynamic legato-strokes and slow, open rolls will require less pressure.



Palm angle and natural extension from forearm

Tenor Stroke Guidelines

The following guidelines will provide the tenor drummer with a consistent approach for playing the drum.

- 1. Grip Maintenance:** Monitor all guidelines for setup and grip. None of these ideas should change when you start to play.
- 2. Path of the Mallet:** The stroke path should be straight up and down. Bad stroke paths are usually a product of incorrect palm angles. This may cause a slicing motion away from the drum (palm is at the incorrect angle) or a circular or elliptical motion (palm angle changes from upstroke to downstroke).
- 3. Initiate the Stroke from the Wrist:** All stroke motion is initiated from the wrist. When you do this correctly, the head of the stick will move first, in an upward motion. Any arm motion that is added is as a consequence of the wrist turn. There are no “arm only” strokes.
- 4. Use the Natural Rebound:** Allow the mallet to naturally rebound off of the head. Avoid tension in hands and squeezing the mallet, which may cause a stiff and unnatural feel.
- 5. Height/Sound Consistency:** Concentrate on duplicating the exact height of each stroke (on one hand or hand-to-hand). This along with consistent playing zones and a consistent firmness in your fulcrums will create a consistent sound between your hands. Our height system is as follows: P 3”, MP 6”, MF 9”, F 12”, FF15”
- 6. Control the Opposite Stick/Mallet:** When one hand is playing, the other must remain in the starting (setup) position.



3” P

6” MP

9” MF

12” F

15” FF