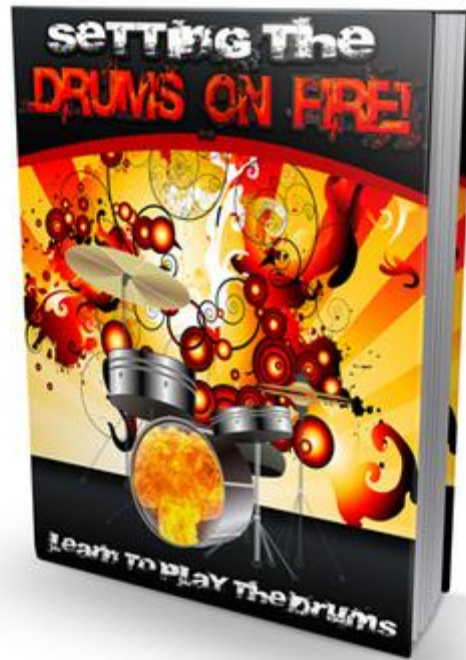


# Setting the Drums on Fire

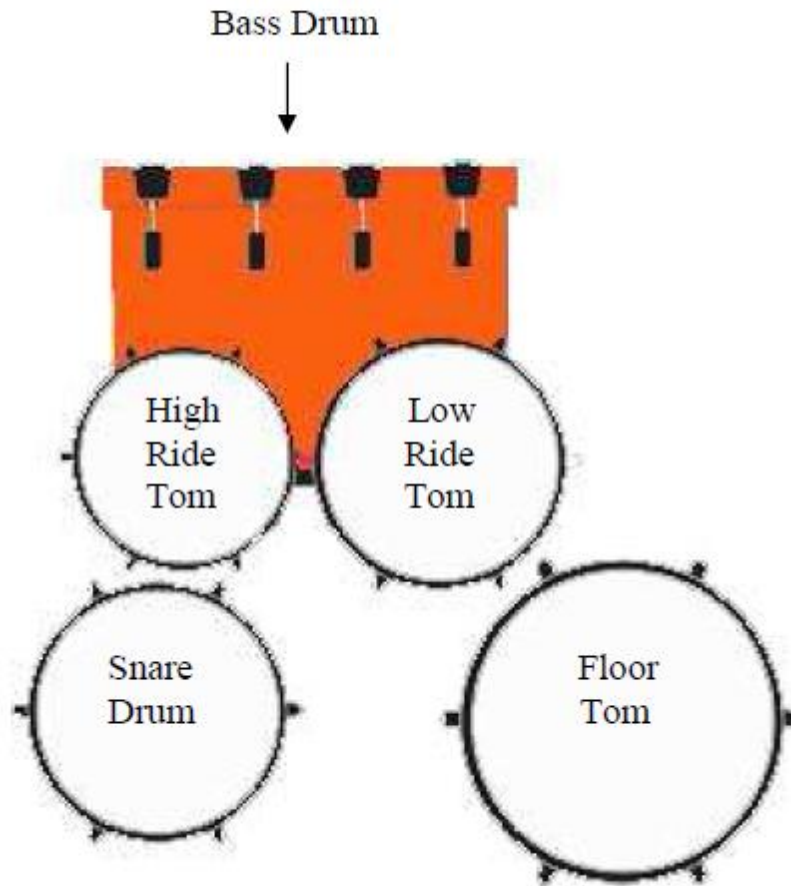


Learn to Play the Drums

*by*

*Learn-And-Play-Drums.com*

## Basic 5-Piece Drum Kit Setup



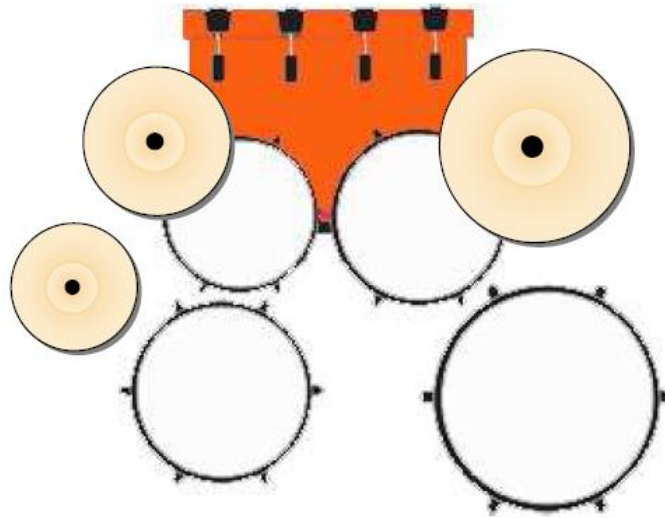
The bass drum keeps the basic beat of the music being played and usually is in relative unison with the bass lines played by the bass guitar player. It is played with right foot (left for lefthanded drummers). There is a pedal with a beater that is usually made from a tightly wound cloth material such as felt.

The snare drum is played by the left hand (again, right for left-handed drummers).

The toms: high ride, low ride, and floor toms are usually used for fills but occasionally are played as part of the basic running beat.

## What about Cymbals?

Most drum kit setups have a set of hi-hat cymbals, a ride (or ping) cymbal, and at least one crash cymbal. Cymbals come in various sizes and weights for different purposes and sounds. Some have a darker tone and some have a crisper tone. Some have a quick decay, while others keep ringing on for what may seem an eternity. There are specialty cymbals such as China cymbals, Splash cymbals, cymbals with rivets (known as sizzle cymbals), and so on. You certainly have plenty to choose from!



### ***Popular Cymbal Brands***

The more popular brands of cymbals are: ([FIND OUT MORE ON CYMBALS HERE](#))

- \_ Zildjian
- \_ Paiste
- \_ Sabian
- \_ Wuhan
- \_ Meinl
- \_ Pearl

## Should You Consider Buying a Used Drum Set?

A new drum set can certainly be expensive. If you have the cash to lay out for a top-of-the-line kit, go for it! What if you're not rich though and just can't afford a new drum set? Or, maybe you just can't see yourself pouring that much money into your hobby or potential

career at the beginning stage. Most of these same high-end manufacturers have taken these situations into consideration. They've got you covered by offering a more modestly priced kit. Of course these beginner drum sets are not of the same professional quality as their high-end lines, but these guys do know how to make drums after all. As such even the beginner kits are pretty decent most of the time.

On the other hand, what if you can't afford a new high-end kit but want that professional quality nonetheless?

You can always buy a used kit. Especially during the current recession you can pick up a nice drum set without breaking the bank. Don't be afraid to bargain with the seller either. Most have a "the least I'll accept" number in their head but advertise for a higher price. If you're patient and assertive you can probably work them down and get a feel for that least amount. Then you can make your final offer.

Never buy a drum set unless you're allowed to play it first. Just like a used car, it may look sassy but be quite trashy when you the pedal down. If the person or shop selling the drums won't allow you to try them out, then just turn around and walk out the door.

If you know someone who is experienced with drums, take them along to help you inspect the set you're considering. Look for broken or missing hardware, scratches, and signs of damage from moisture, etc. You may not be too concerned about a few dings here and there and that's fine.

It's really only the things that affect the sound or playability of the kit that makes a big difference.

Drum heads can be expensive, especially when you have to replace them for the whole drum set. If they're on their last leg, try to get the seller to replace them or ask them to take a cut on the price since you'll have to replace them yourself if they aren't willing to.

# Discover Amazing Drums Lessons: Mike Michalkow's Drumming System



Learn how to play with step-by-step Drums lessons supported by video and audio files. [Mike Michalkow's Drumming System](#) takes you on a journey from beginner to advanced in your drums playing.

These video lessons are amazing, they have been professionally recorded and edited and are guaranteed to be more stylish and useful than anything you will find. There is no substitute for seeing and hearing how something is supposed to be played. You'll discover the most effective ways to practice so that you master new material quickly, without developing bad habits. Learn to play the drums smoothly and flawlessly, while cutting your learning time in half!

Discover how to master impressive skills, such as the various fingering techniques, how to play by ear, arpeggios, including how to play rock, jazz, latin and much much more!

You WILL NOT waste hundreds, if not thousands of dollars on expensive drums lessons. You will learn all of the tips and tricks. You even get sounds files (AND video) so you can play along. And, unlike a private drums teacher, you can repeat each song or riff over and over again until you get it correct and professional sounding.

[Mike Michalkow's Drumming System](#) is THE BEST Drums course on the market.

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## How to Set Up Your Drum Set

Congratulations on purchasing your first drum set! Now it's time to get it all set up and ready to play. Although the basic arrangement of the drums in a kit is fairly standard, you have complete freedom to make adjustments to make your setup as comfortable as possible for you. You'll just need to make sure that every element of your kit is within easy reach from a sitting position.

Each manufacturer has its own mounting system (for mounting the toms on the bass drum or on drum stands). The best systems give you complete freedom in adjusting the height and angle of each drum to suit you.

Once you're happy with the arrangement of your drums, it's time to set up the cymbals. As with the drums, you need to make sure you can reach each cymbal without having to stretch. Refer to the diagram on page 34 for the common placement of cymbals in relation to the drum set.

Especially if you'll be playing Rock or Heavy Metal, you'll want to invest in good, heavy duty, double-braced hardware. This goes for your drum throne, snare stand, hi-hat stand, cymbal stands, and tom stands if you'll be using those instead of mounting your toms on the bass drum.

Especially important is your bass drum pedal. Make sure to get a chain-drive (preferably double chain-drive) pedal. Since this piece of hardware gets so much use, and abuse, it has to be able to handle the task.

You'll be really glad you've paid attention here--there's nothing more embarrassing as a drummer than to have your cymbals fall over or your throne to collapse under your weight right in the middle of a performance!

## Taking Good Care of Your Drums

As you should know by now, a decent drum set certainly isn't cheap. Now that you've made this investment, you need to know how to take good care of your kit. When you do so, your drums will last for years and years.

A drum's worst enemy is moisture. Moisture and humidity will soften the wood and cause a drum to warp. Never, ever leave your kit in a humid environment.

If you have gigs to play then you'll want a set of bags or hard cases to keep them dry should it be raining or damp outside. These will also protect your drums from dings and scratches which are fairly inevitable when they're moved around a lot.

For cleaning it's enough to just use a soft, dry, lint-free cloth to dust them off and put a little shine to the finish. Especially if the finish is lacquered you want to be careful of putting any type of cleaning solution on them.

The same goes for your cymbals. They'll tarnish much quicker and even grow mold if they're kept in a moist environment. Just a dusting is all that's generally needed. Cymbal polish is available, but it's rarely necessary to use it. Cymbals are like fine wine, they tend to get better with age, so try not to interfere with their natural aging process.

## Finding Some Good Lessons

It used to be a lot harder to learn to play the drums well. The choices were to either: pay for lessons, join the school band and “crawl” your way to a percussion education, or just turn on the record player (yes, I’m that old) and play along with songs.

These days you can find lessons all over the internet. Many are free but most of these lack any kind of substance to them. Plus, it can be really confusing if you don’t know just what it is you need to learn next. It’s kind of hit and miss, and easy to get frustrated.

The best way to advance your skills properly besides taking expensive lessons is to lay out a little cash for a complete method that teaches the techniques you need to know, in the order that you need to know them. Another perk is that you can advance at your own pace. One learning system I highly recommend is [Mike Michalkow’s Drumming System](#).



## Discover Amazing Drums Lessons: Mike Michalkow’s Drumming System

## Appendix

### ***How to Tune Your Drums***

This is best left to video demonstration. I can explain it to you here but unless you see it in action, it won't have much meaning to you.

***An excellent video that shows you step-by-step how to properly tune your drums is [The Drum Tuning System](#).***

