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Introduction

After observing teachers and students enjoying my book *Give Me A Bucket*, I was inspired to write a follow-up. Instead of another collection of ensemble pieces for bucket band, I began to envision an assortment of one to two measure grooves composed with uncomplicated rhythms. An assortment of “starter beats” that could be used for teaching bucket basics, function as warm-up exercises, or be arranged into performance pieces. Perhaps that book should have been written before *Give Me A Bucket*. No matter; the prequel now exists.

Easy Buckets serves up thirty simple grooves plus two easy ensembles. You’ll find rhythms for unison buckets as well as beats for polyphonic pails. My concise bucket drumming tutorial is included along with a reference recording of every groove and ensemble.

Go ahead—set up some pails, hand over some sticks, pass out the parts, and let the bucket grooves begin.

About the CD

The CD included in this product contains audio and digital files. To hear the audio files, use the CD as you would any other audio disc.

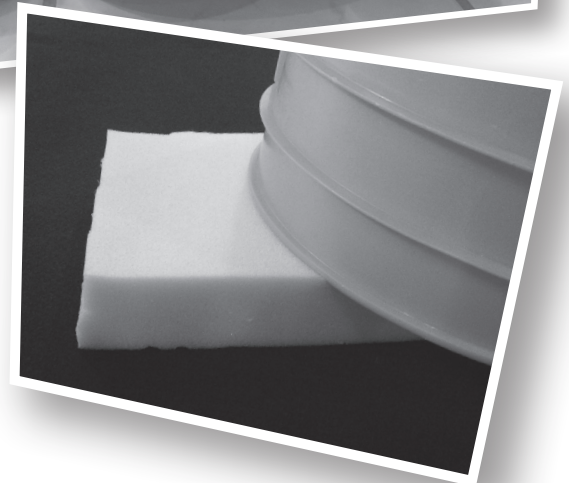
The digital files include individual scores for each part in multi-part scores. To access the digital files, you will need a PDF reader, such as Adobe Reader, which you can download for free at <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>. Once you have installed a PDF reader, simply insert your CD into your computer’s CD drive. When prompted, click View Files to see all of the resources available to you.

Instruments

Tenor buckets are the workhorses of the bucket ensembles. These five-gallon plastic pails are the “industry-standard, go-to” instruments of bucket music. When inverted, the bottom becomes the drumhead and the rim is ready for a crackling rim shot.

Open position: Play with a portion of the bucket opening raised off the floor. This position brings out the lower frequencies of the bucket. This is very important for producing a proper bass tone. You can either raise the bucket with a foot or place a chunk of foam rubber under the bucket to keep it propped open. A slab about 8” x 4” x 1 3/4” should do the trick. (see photo)

Closed position: Play these notes with the bucket opening resting against the floor. The lower frequencies are less pronounced in this position.



Single Bucket Grooves



The Single Bucket Grooves can be used as exercises, warm-ups, or performance pieces. Very simple rhythms combined with unison playing allow students to concentrate on sticking patterns, striking areas, and performing together in an ensemble. Some of these “bucket beats” can probably be taught by rote.

Teaching and Performance Notes

- A five-gallon plastic tenor bucket is the recommended ax for these easygoin’ grooves. Use drum sticks or dowels as the striking implements. Playing the buckets with Boomwhackers is another option (see page 5).
- The bucket should be played in the open position to allow the low frequencies to resonate.
- Strike the rim with the shoulder of the stick. You will know the correct rim sound when you hear the “pop.” Play the rim near the 11:00 to 1:00 area of the head so that the audience can see the path of the sticks.
- Imitate the sound and feel of the bass drum and snare drum parts in a drum set groove when playing these single bucket beats.
- Observe the sticking beneath the notes. Doing so will help students develop the ability to read and play various sticking permutations. This important skill will transfer to playing other percussion instruments. Using the same sticking also adds to the visual appeal as the audience watches the performers’ hands and sticks moving in unison.
- Seating the players in a straight line across the performance area will allow the audience to see the visual aspects.
- Wearing a black shirt and wrapping the drum sticks with bright yellow or orange tape will heighten the effect of the stick movements.



Two Bucket Grooves



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Rock 1

Musical notation for Rock 1 in 4/4 time. The notation consists of two staves: Side Rim (opt.) and Rim Head. The Side Rim staff has a series of 'x' marks above the staff, indicating rim shots, with a solid note on the downbeat of every other measure. The Rim Head staff has notes on the downbeats of measures 1, 3, 5, and 7, and 'x' marks on the downbeats of measures 2, 4, 6, and 8. The notes are labeled R (Right) and L (Left) below the staff.

R L R R L R L R R L

14

Rock 2

Musical notation for Rock 2 in 4/4 time. The notation consists of two staves: Side Rim (opt.) and Rim Head. The Side Rim staff has a series of 'x' marks above the staff, indicating rim shots, with a solid note on the downbeat of every other measure. The Rim Head staff has notes on the downbeats of measures 1, 3, 5, and 7, and 'x' marks on the downbeats of measures 2, 4, 6, and 8. The notes are labeled R (Right) and L (Left) below the staff.

R L R R L R L R R L

15

Half-Time

Musical notation for Half-Time in 4/4 time. The notation consists of two staves: Side Rim (opt.) and Rim Head. The Side Rim staff has 'x' marks above the staff on the downbeats of measures 1, 3, 5, and 7, and solid notes on the downbeats of measures 2, 4, 6, and 8. The Rim Head staff has notes on the downbeats of measures 1, 3, 5, and 7, and 'x' marks on the downbeats of measures 2, 4, 6, and 8. The notes are labeled R (Right) and L (Left) below the staff.

R L R R R R L

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Four on the Floor

Musical notation for Four on the Floor in 4/4 time. The notation consists of two staves: Side Rim (opt.) and Rim Head. The Side Rim staff has a series of 'x' marks above the staff, indicating rim shots, with a solid note on the downbeat of every other measure. The Rim Head staff has notes on the downbeats of every measure, alternating between R (Right) and L (Left). The notes are labeled R and L below the staff.

R L R L R L R L