

First Band Book

Rhythm Section

Piano
Drums
Bass

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Alberto Moreno & Josep Morera



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“Music must be at the base of the education of young people, as it sweetens the spirit, elevates it and disposes it to good habits, enthusiasm and wisdom. Just as the body is trained through gymnastics, the soul must be trained through music”

Plato

In 2014, after 7 years as a music teacher in Secondary Education at Hamelin-Laie International School, I presented a very risky project that basically aimed at making music an experience for the student rather than a subject based on theoretical concepts. Hamelin-Laie International School, interested in the idea that the students could form musical groups, supported the idea.

Based on the Big Band, I thought of creating one per class. To carry out the proposal and take care of the training of each of the rhythmic sections myself, I needed a team of teachers to train the students to play the wind instruments; that is where I was lucky enough to have Michael Dehner, Eva Garin and Josep Morera and share the excitement of this new methodology with them.

Throughout this period, and working with 12 classes in each academic year, the four of us have learned a lot from the students and their instrumental initiation. I thought it would be a good idea to create our own repertoire that could be performed with the Big Band, another type of smaller formation or even individually, but always suitable for instrumental initiation, allowing the student to improvise and perform different musical styles from the beginning. The tool that you have in your hands is the one that we have designed so that the students can familiarize themselves with the instrument, practicing and improvising from the beginning. They can practice pieces of diverse styles, in an individual or collaborative way, making it possible to understand and enjoy the work that they carry out integrating their musical education as an experiential and significant learning experience.

We hope it will be as useful for you as it is to us.

Alberto Moreno

Piano

The piano is an instrument that is both from the string family and from the percussion family. An acoustic piano has strings, but these are struck by little hammers when you press the keys.

Its main function in the big band is to provide the harmonic foundation by playing the chords.

Main parts of the Piano



Music Rack

Keyboard

X-Frame Stand

Bench

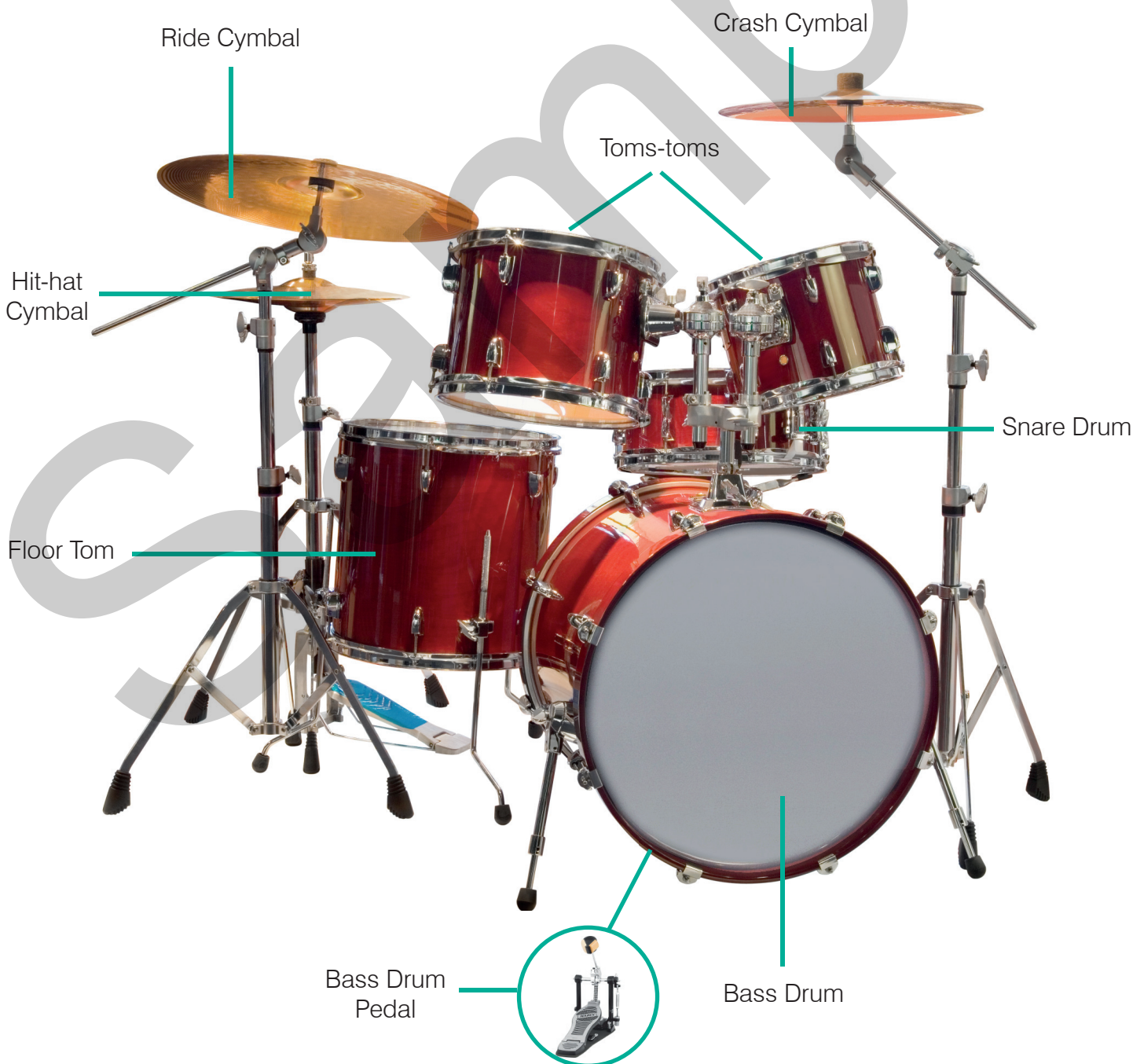
Soft pedal:
Attack reduction

Damper pedal:
Sustaining pedal. The notes
continues to play even if you
stop pressing the keys.

Drum Kit

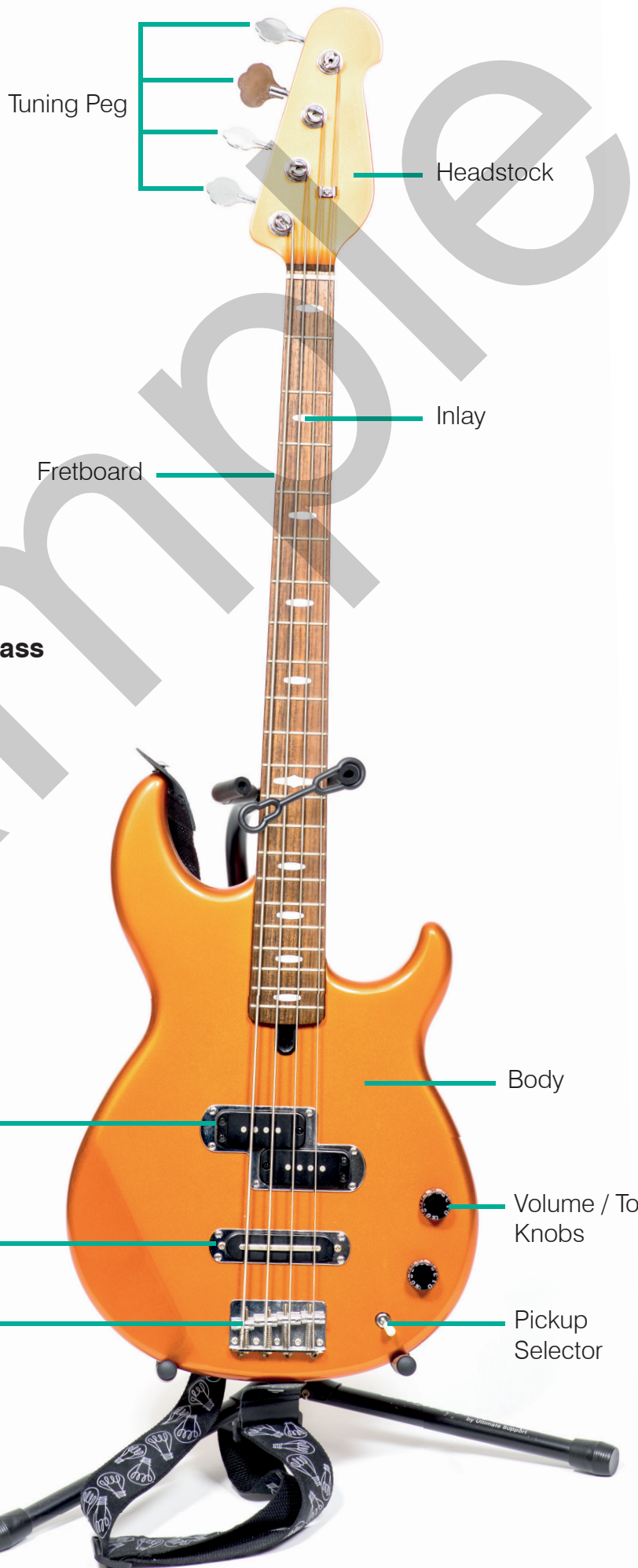
The drum kit (or - in short - “the drums”) is, in fact, a collection of percussion instruments, mostly drums and cymbals. Its function in the big band is to provide the rhythmic foundation together with the bass.

Main parts of the Drum Kit



Bass

The Bass is a string instrument, which provides the harmonic foundation in the big band. As it sounds very low, the bass is in charge of mainly playing the root notes of the chords. The general idea is for the bass to form a rhythmical unit together with the drums.



Main parts of the Bass

Table of characteristics

	Title	Style	Key	Time Signature
1	Tension And Rest	Folk	B♭	4/4
2	Neat Conclusion	Pop	B♭	4/4
3	Blues 2 You	Blues	B♭	4/4
4	Sudden Stops Blues	Blues	B♭	4/4
5	Almost Lidian	Vals	B♭	3/4
6	Mirror Mirror	Pop-rock	C	4/4
7	Bluesing The Moment	Blues	F	4/4
8	Whistling In The Darkness	Pop-rock	Cm	4/4
9	Opening Up	Latin-rock	Cm	4/4
10	Paddling	Vals	E♭	3/4
11	One, Two... Play!	Bossa	Gm	4/4
12	Before The Beat	Blues	E♭	4/4
13	Clapping Coast	Bossa	B♭	4/4
14	The Cradle	Vals	F	3/4
15	Dancing The Waltz	Vals	B♭	6/8
16	Moving On	Latin	Gm	4/4
17	Blues Not Blue	Blues	C	4/4
18	Cool Breeze	Bossa	F	4/4
19	Answering Machine	Pop-rock	Cm	4/4
20	Climbing The Wave	Vals	Cm	3/4
21	Teeter Song	Folklore	Dm	3/4
22	Bossa De Paper	Bossa	Dm	4/4
23	Chirping	Vals	E♭	6/8
24	Crossing The Sea	Bossa	C	4/4
25	Two Directions	Pop-rock	C	4/4
26	Taking The Step	Medium swing	F	4/4
27	Fast Blues	Blues	F	4/4
28	Go Blues!	Blues	A♭	4/4
29	Johnny Brazilian	Bossa	D♭	4/4
30	A Short Journey	Vals	C	3/4
31	Jumping	Blues	A♭	4/4
32	Andalusian Folkly	Folklore	Dm	3/4
33	Chromatically Correct	Blues	F	4/4
34	Whispering	Medium funk	B♭	4/4
35	A Long Journey	Bossa	F	4/4
36	Two-Step In	Folklore	Gm	4/4
37	Sparkly Syncopation	Pop-rock	F	4/4
38	Fine Dango	Bossa	F	4/4
39	Rings A Bell	Pop-rock	Dm	4/4
40	All Times Ranchera	Ranchera	F	3/4
41	Music Solutions Blues	Blues	Fm	4/4
42	Guadarrama's Blues	Blues	C	4/4
43	Dark Night	Bossa	Dm	4/4
44	Guaracheando	Latin	Fm	4/4
45	Untouchable Flats	Pop-rock	E♭	6/8
46	Enjoy The Voices	Vals	B♭	3/4
47	The Seventh Major Street	Symphonic rock	modal	3/4
48	Mars Funk	Funk	A♭	4/4

New Notes	New Rhythmic Figures	Improvisation	Page #
b \flat , c d e \flat		b \flat c d e \flat	15
		b \flat c d e \flat	16
g		b \flat c d e \flat g	17
e		b \flat c d e \flat g	18
		b \flat c d e f g	19
f a \flat a		c d f g a	20
c \sharp		c d f g (g \sharp) a	21
b \flat c'		c d f g a	22
a,		Cm	23
		c e \flat f g b \flat	24
		E \flat	25
		Gm	26
		Pent. E \flat	27
		B \flat	28
		F	29
		b \flat c d e \flat f , g	30
		b \flat c (c \sharp) d f g	31
		Pent. C	32
		Pent. F	33
b,		Pent. Cm	34
		Pent. Dm	35
f \sharp		c f g (g \sharp) a c	36
		E \flat	37
b		C Gm	38
g \sharp		C	39
		Pent. F	40
		Pent. F	41
d \flat a \flat ,		Pent. A \flat	42
g \flat		D \flat B A	43
		C Pent. F	44
		Pent. A \flat	45
		Dm (+c \sharp)	46
		Pent. F	47
		Pent. B \flat	48
d \sharp c \sharp		Pent. F (Solos on A) C Em D	50
d'		Gm	51
		F	52
		F E \flat Gm	54
		Pent. Dm	56
		Pent. F	58
d \flat '		Pent. Fm	60
		Pent. Cm	62
		Dm	63
e'		Pent. Fm	66
		No impro	68
		No impro	70
		No impro	72
		No impro	75

1. Tension And Rest

Folk

♩ = 134

Form: **A B**

Scale for improvisation



Josep Morera

A

Bb F7 Bb

4 Bb F7 Bb

B

9 F7 Bb

13 F7 Bb

New rhythmic figures



A - B

New notes

b^b, c d e^b

Musical form designates both a musical structure that has been built over time, and a particular musical genre; a musical composition that we differentiated by various criteria.

2. Neat Conclusion

Pop

♩ = 145

Form: **A** **A'**

Scale for improvisation



Michael Dehner

A

B \flat

5

F 7

A'

9

B \flat

F 7

13

B \flat

F 7

B \flat

Pop

Pop music is an eclectic style that derives from many other genres. Mainly, it is characterized by friendly melodies, simple harmonies and square structures. Therefore, it is a popular music that tries to please as many people as possible. It was born in England in the sixties.

39. Rings A Bell

Pop-rock

♩ = 100

Form: **A A B A**

Scale for improvisation

Michael Dehner

A

Fine

B

9 G-7 A-7 Bbmaj7 G-7 A-7 Bbmaj7

13 G-7 A-7 Bbmaj7 Bb/C

D.C. al Fine

“Every artist was first an amateur.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

“Music... transcends the boundaries of language, politics and nations.”

Pau Casals