

Band Skill Rating Chart (Beginner Percussion Fall)

	7	8
Time (10x4)	You are close to playing in time with a metronome, but you are regularly a little ahead or behind the beat.	You can play in time with a metronome, but speed up or slow down when playing with the metronome off.
Rhythm Reading (10x4)	You understand, and can accurately perform, assigned rhythms in less than 3 weeks.	You understand, and can accurately perform, assigned rhythms in less than 2 weeks.
Stick Control (10x2)	You are close to holding your sticks correctly, and in a natural way.	You hold your sticks correctly, and in a natural way.

Understanding The Categories (Beginner Percussion Fall)

Time

The ability to play a steady beat is the most important skill for a percussionist, if not for every musician. For some, this comes naturally, and only needs to be developed through practice. Most players will need to practice with a metronome to develop this skill quickly. When your time is fully developed, you can play without rushing or dragging. You can easily stay with a metronome, yet play in time when the metronome is turned off.

Rhythm Reading

This rating measures your ability to read and understand note values, like quarter, eighth, sixteenth, and half notes, along with the rests for each note value. Understanding time signatures is also a part of this score for older students. It is helpful to practice “slashing”, the beats in each measure. Practicing with a metronome can also be helpful.

Stick Control

Good stick control will help you play in time, allow you to get a good sound out of your instrument, and make it possible to perform well in a band. Grip the stick correctly! The stick is held between your thumb and first finger, with a firm (but not tight) grip. The last 3 fingers “cradle the stick for control. We develop stick control by practicing *rudiments*, such as, single-strokes, bounce-strokes, flams, and five stroke rolls.