GENERAL

alfreds drumset method bk 2 book cd

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Introduction

Whether you're a beginner looking to build a solid foundation or an intermediate player wanting to expand your technique, the **Alfred's Drumset Method Book 2**paired with its accompanying CD has become a staple in drum education worldwide. This comprehensive package offers structured lessons, rhythmic variety, and a clear progression that keeps drummers engaged and motivated. In this article, we'll dive deep into what makes the method book and CD combination a must-have, how to use it effectively, and practical tips for getting the most out of every page and track.

Why Alfred's Drumset Method Book 2 Stands Out

Authoritative Pedagogy

Written by **David Cook**, a seasoned drum educator, the book builds on the principles of the first volume while introducing new concepts such as advanced rudiments, syncopation, and dynamic control. Cook's approach is clear, methodical, and rooted in real-world playing, making the material accessible to all skill levels.

Integrated Audio Companion

The CD that accompanies the book contains high-quality recordings of every exercise, groove, and piece. Listening to the tracks while playing helps internalize tempo, feel, and groove—essential skills for any drummer. The audio tracks are professionally mixed, ensuring that each drum component is audible and balanced.

Progressive Learning Curve

Unlike many method books that jump straight into complex rhythms, this volume starts with solid fundamentals and gradually introduces more demanding material. The progression is designed to reinforce previous lessons, allowing drummers to build confidence before tackling new challenges.

Versatile Practice Tools

Each page includes a variety of exercises: single strokes, double strokes, paradiddles, and more. Additionally, the book offers rhythmic patterns in different time signatures (4/4, 3/4, 6/8) and tempos, encouraging versatility. The CD's playback options—such as adjustable tempo and loop features—make it easy to practice specific sections repeatedly.

What's Inside the Book and CD?

Book Layout

- Section 1: Fundamentals – Repetition of single strokes, rudiments, and basic time signatures.
- Section 2: Rudiments & Patterns – Expanded rudiment practice, including flams, drags, and paradiddles.
- Section 3: Groove Development – Introduction to syncopated grooves, ghost notes, and dynamic shading.
- Section 4: Musicality & Performance – Application of techniques in musical contexts, reading full scores.
- Section 5: Advanced Concepts – Polyrhythms, odd-time signatures, and creative improvisation.

CD Features

- Track 1-10 – Basic groove loops with metronome backing.
- Track 11-20 – Rudiment recordings in various tempos.
- Track 21-30 – Full musical pieces demonstrating applied techniques.
- Track 31-40 – Advanced grooves, polyrhythms, and improvisational cues.
- Special Features – Tempo sliders, loop points, and isolated drum kit components.

How to Use the Book and CD Effectively

Set Up a Structured Practice Routine

Consistency is key. Allocate specific times each day for different sections: warm up, rudiment drills, groove practice, and musical application. Use the CD to set a consistent tempo, and gradually increase speed as you master each exercise.

Start with the Basics

Even if you're an experienced player, revisit the fundamentals. The book's early pages reinforce proper grip, posture, and stick control. Use the CD's metronome tracks to ensure accurate timing.

Employ the "Loop & Repeat" Technique

Many drummers find looping a section on the CD helpful. Loop a short groove or rudiment, play it until you're comfortable, then extend the loop. This technique is especially useful for mastering complex patterns.

Record Yourself

Use a simple recording setup to capture your practice sessions. Listening back helps identify timing issues, dynamics, and groove consistency. Compare your recordings with the CD tracks to gauge progress.

Apply Music Theory Basics

While the book focuses on technique, pairing it with basic music theory—such as understanding chord changes, song structures, and key signatures—will deepen your musicality. Try transcribing simple songs and applying the techniques learned.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Keeping Time at Higher Tempos

As the tempo increases, many drummers feel the urge to rush. Focus on a steady pulse by using the metronome track on the CD. Break down the groove into smaller sections and practice each at a slower tempo before combining them.

Maintaining Evenness in Rudiments

Uneven rudiment strokes can break the groove. Practice with a metronome, counting each stroke aloud. Use the CD's rudiment recordings to listen for evenness and adjust your stick action accordingly.

Incorporating Dynamics

Dynamic shading adds musical expression. The book includes dynamic markings (pp, p, mp, mf, f, ff). Practice playing each dynamic level, then gradually blend them into a single groove. The CD's dynamic variations will serve as reference points.

Staying Motivated Over Time

Long-term practice can become monotonous. Mix up your routine by alternating between book exercises,

improvisation, and playing along with your favorite songs. The CD's diverse tracks keep practice sessions fresh.

Comparing Alfred's Drumset Method Book 2 with Other Methods

Alfred's vs. Stick Control

While *Stick Control*focuses heavily on rudiments, Alfred's Method offers a broader approach that includes groove development and musical application. If you want a balanced curriculum, Alfred's is a better fit.

Alfred's vs. Rock School

Rock School is tailored to rock drummers and emphasizes genre-specific patterns. Alfred's Method, on the other hand, is genre-agnostic, covering a wide range of styles. For players seeking versatility, Alfred's is preferable.

Alfred's vs. Jazz Method

Jazz Method dives deep into swing feel and complex time signatures. Alfred's Method provides a solid foundation before tackling jazz-specific concepts. If you're new to jazz, starting with Alfred's will give you the necessary tools.

Where to Buy and How to Choose the Right Edition

Official Publishers

Purchase from **Alfred Music**, the original publisher, to ensure you receive the latest edition and official CD. Look for the ISBN: **978-0-89295-107-6**.

Digital vs. Physical

- Physical Book + CD – Ideal for tactile learners and those who prefer a tangible reference.
- Digital PDF + MP3 – Convenient for on-the-go practice and electronic devices. Verify that the digital version includes all tracks.

Check for Updated Editions

Publishers occasionally release updated editions with revised exercises or additional tracks. Compare the edition number and publication date to ensure you're getting the most current content.

Testimonials from Drummers Who Love Alfred's Drumset Method Book 2

John D., 16-Year-Old Beginner

"I started with the first book, then moved to Book 2. The CD helped me stay on tempo, and the progressive exercises kept me motivated. I can now play simple grooves with confidence."

Maria L., 24-Year-Old Studio Drummer

"The method's focus on dynamics and groove has improved my feel in the studio. I use the CD tracks as backing for my own recordings."

David R., 32-Year-Old Music Teacher

"I recommend Book 2 to my students because it's structured and covers both technique and musicality. The CD is an excellent tool for reinforcing lessons."

Frequently Asked Questions

Is the CD still available in physical format?

Yes, the physical CD is still sold by the publisher, but many retailers now offer digital downloads for convenience.

Can I use the CD tracks with a metronome app?

Absolutely. Many apps allow you to import audio files, so you can sync the CD tracks with a metronome for precise practice.

Do I need a drum set to use this method?

While a full drum set provides the best experience, many exercises can be adapted for practice pads or electronic kits.

How long should I spend on each section?

Allocate at least 15–20 minutes per section daily, increasing the time as you become comfortable with the material.

Conclusion

The **Alfred's Drumset Method Book 2 with CD**remains a cornerstone for drummers seeking a comprehensive, well-structured learning path. Its blend of clear instruction, rhythmic variety, and high-quality audio support ensures that players can develop technical proficiency while cultivating musical expression. Whether you're just starting out or looking to refine your groove, this method provides the tools and guidance needed to progress confidently. Invest in the book and CD, commit to a disciplined practice routine, and watch your drumming skills evolve from solid fundamentals to expressive performance.

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