



V-Drums Lab Teaching Tips

SOUNDS AND STYLES

Drummers need to know how to effectively play many types of music - each with their own style and sounds. Below are some practice tips designed to explore various musical styles.



IDENTIFYING SOUNDS

By utilizing the variety of sounds available, students can learn the parts of a drum set (as well as other percussion instruments) that might not be available at the school.

PRACTICE PLAYING TIP: Call up a standard drum set patch and play the different drum set sounds. Play a variety for learning the parts of a drum set (bass drum, snare drum, toms, crash, ride, high hat cymbals). Then call up some of the percussion patches and guide them through the various percussion instruments (tambourine, shaker, conga drums, etc.).

VARIATION: Explore the available drum kits to show the sounds used in different styles (Rock; big sounds - Jazz; open sounds - Funk/R&B; tight sounds) and use the different kits to learn the different rhythms for the different styles of music. Try playing musical examples of different styles and have the students find the appropriate kit for the style

PLAYING WITH DIFFERENT STYLES OF MUSIC

With the vast library of internal songs found in the Drum Modules students can learn in real time how to play along with various styles of music. In addition it allows for the study of the sounds that fit appropriately with each musical style.

PRACTICE PLAYING TIP: Call up a rock song in the module and your choice of rock kit. Mute the drum part on the song and have the student play along using the rock beat they have previously learned to play. Repeat this exercise with a variety of styles - Jazz, Funk, Latin, Reggae, etc.,



VARIATION: Have the students explore the different drum set sounds and have them pick their favorite kit. Then go around the room and let the student play the kit they selected, and explain what they like about the sounds and why they played the rhythm they choose. They can also describe the dynamics and rhythm types they played.

QUICK RECORD - QUICK PLAY

Easily record and playback your performance. This is a convenient way to assess and evaluate your performance and track your progress.

PRACTICE PLAYING TIP: Select a drum kit and the song you wish to practice. Use the quick record feature as you play along with the song. When finished play back your recording listening for correct rhythms. With a USB flash drive connected (on select models), your recorded data is automatically exported to the USB flash drive and can be archived for future reference.

BROADCASTING A SELECTION

To simulate a real-world playing experience, play any audio CD for the entire class utilizing the GLC-1C Lab Conferencing System. Everyone will be able to simultaneously hear the audio selection through their headsets creating an ensemble learning experience.

PRACTICE PLAYING TIP: Select the music you wish to broadcast to the class. Have a variety of style and rhythm selections. Encourage the students to read and/or interpret the rhythm. Let them select the drum set sound that should be used in that style. (this works especially well when using a “Music Minus One” CD where the drum track will be muted)

PLAYING IDIOMATICALLY TO THE SOUNDS

Students can easily learn the appropriate rhythms and drum fills to play with a variety of styles of music using the variety of drum sets found in the Sound Module. Depending on the sound module used, have them play percussion sounds as well (Latin, Orchestra, etc.)



PRACTICE PLAYING TIP: Select one of the built-in songs available in the module or utilize the AUX input of the Roland conferencing system to use your own CD selection. Teach how and when to play the appropriate rhythms of a drum fill. Discuss the appropriate sounds for the style of music.

VARIATION: Using one of the percussion kits show how to add auxiliary percussion like congas, cowbell, shaker, etc. to your selection.

COMPLEMENTARY RHYTHMS

Students will learn to listen to each other and blend in rhythmically to make one unified rhythm with this simple exercise

PRACTICE PLAYING TIP: Assign each student one sound on their pad or snare. Start with a simple pattern and ask each student, one-by-one, to join in. Continue to play a simple rhythm and ask the students to play a complementary rhythm. Create teams and pairs for a more advanced exercise.

Play a simple rhythm and ask the students to play a complementary rhythm.

