# **Bucket Ensemble: How to Play and Teach Junkyard Percussion**

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Thesis: Quality music organized in a logical format allows for maximal music learning

#### **Benefits/Dangers:**

- Perceived Benefits: Engaging, Accessible, Cool Factor
- True Benefits: Steady Beat, Rhythm Vocabulary, Ensemble Performance, Movement

#### **Lesson Plan Format:**

Beginning Activity	2 minutes	Designed to increase comfort with sticks
Echo Activity	30 seconds	Designed to teach a specific physical/musical challenge
Technique Exercises	1 minute	Designed to sequentially build physical technique and ensemble skills
Modes	10+ minutes	Designed to teach music

#### Lesson Plan 1 15-20 minutes

- Beginning Activity
  - How to hold sticks: 'Pinch, Wiggle, Wave'
  - Stick Mirror: Both Teacher-Student and Student-Student
- Echo Activity
  - Floor, Leg, Chair: One Stick
- Technique Exercises
  - 8 on a hand: w/variations
- Modes
  - One Bucket Groove
    - Partner Sequence
    - Theme and Variations: Student and Teacher created
    - Improvisation: Fills/Partners/Solo
  - Movement Groove
    - Basic Groove
    - Partner Composition: Keep parameters simple

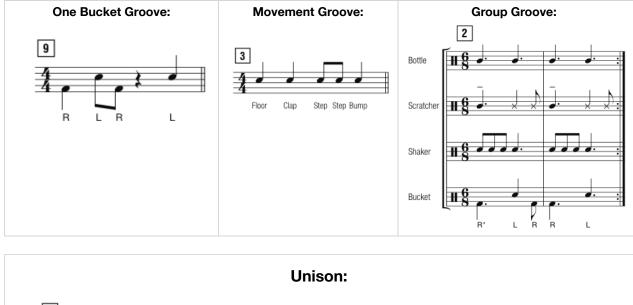
#### Lesson Plan 2 15-20 minutes

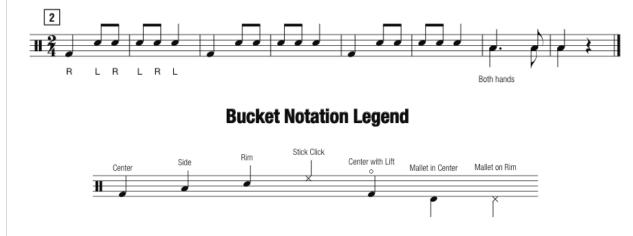
- Beginning Activity
  - Zip Sticks: increases accuracy and precision
- Echo Activity
  - Isolate Stickings to increase technique: Right, Left, Both, and Alternate
- Technique Exercises
  - Single Stroke Roll: Possible variations: dynamic, meter, timbre,
- Mode
  - Unison: Teach like a song
    - Have students listen and move to it many times before they actually play it
  - Group Groove: Teach like a choral piece
    - Don't devolve into jamming...unless that's what you want...instead use form to foster sequential thinking
    - Chamber music technique can help to focus large ensemble playing
    - Solo instruments and different orchestrations

### How to Get Started

- 1. Get instruments
- 2. Use the two lesson plans in this handout
- 3. Get more help at www.TheBucketBook.com/blog

## Some Musical Examples Used in Today's Clinic





### Thank You to the following for making today's presentation possible:





Makers of the finest sticks and mallets available.

