



Basic Tips on Djembe Drumming Iss2.0

Introduction

All the music is stored on my website but if you become a regular we can give you a complete starter pack. The website is here <https://lincolnad.weebly.com/drum-together.html>. Also send a text with your name to Charles Johnson, our leader, 07942 739596 asking to join our WhatsApp group. There are also two useful iphone apps to download – search “keezy drummer” and “djembeföla”.

Detailed Drumming

First - is the rhythm you're trying to learn on “djembeföla”? If so – have a listen. Take out the dunduns and the bells and just listen to one djembe part first. Get a feel for the overall rhythm – what makes this particular drum pattern unique. To start practicing at home you don't even need a drum – just tap your hands on your knees. It's a three stage process

Stage 1 – The Rhythm

Can you interpret the music into the actual rhythm. If not, then use keezy drummer to programme the beats and listen. In fact there are not that many ways to include or miss out any one of 4 beats in a bar. Look through each bar of the music and try and tap out that particular bar. Then try two bars together and then all 4 bars – or in a few cases 8 bars. Often there is a repeating pattern.

Stage 2 – The Syncopation

Once you've mastered the rhythm now try and get the syncopation correct – the use of left and right hand. Nearly always you are alternating your hands left / right / left / right.

Stage 3 – The Sound

Once you've mastered the rhythm and the syncopation then it's time to tackle the sound and for this you do need a djembe! The djembe can produce three basic – the bass the tone and the slap.

- The **bass** sound (low-pitched) is achieved by striking the drum in the middle of the skin with a heavy hand, with the fingers held together.
- The **tone** (medium-pitched) is played with the hand on the edge of the skin, using the wrist as well as the arm to propel the hand towards the drum. The fingers should be held together, hitting the drum in the form of a “flipper”.
- For the **slap** the fingers should be completely relaxed and whipped towards the head/rim of the drum by the arm and wrist. The best way to achieve the slap is through trial and error, and as every person's hands are different so every person will have a unique sound on the drum.

And that's all the basics you need to get started.

Robert Goodhand