



Erie All-City Marching Band Percussion



Pit Ensemble: Drum Set

In this packet you will find the exercises and techniques used in our pit ensemble.

This packet belongs to:

Erie All-City Marching Band

www.eacmb.org

Office: 814-874-6418

Ronuel: 814-602-0421

Brandon: 814-746-2008



Music

Music is what ultimately gave us our beginning, our passion, our drive to bring us to this activity. The styles of music we play here at Erie All-City Marching Band is what defines us. Just as it is important to practice our music and learn to play in these styles, it is also good to be a **good music listener**. Broadening your musical library to include many genres will in turn help you play in those styles and maybe even relate your parts better with others. So whether you have played a percussion instrument your whole life or if this is your first time ever holding a stick, we hope to teach you to be a better percussionist but first and foremost, a better musician.

Dynamics

Each dynamic in the music will have a corresponding height to go with it. These heights are how we will define each volume and will be exact for most of the program. It is important that we all play the same exact heights in order to play together **consistently**. However, it is important that as a musician you are flexible enough to adjust as all of the heights listed below will not be perfect for every situation encountered in the music.

Ex. Definition of Stick Heights & Dynamics would be:

3 inches 6 inches 9 inches 12 inches 15 inches

p *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

Timing

This is a percussion program and timing is a very important part of what we do. Our role in the whole musical ensemble and the integrity of our rhythms rely very much on timing. Learning your rhythms and learning them **CORRECTLY** is very important. Slower is always better than faster when it comes to practicing. Never move onto a faster tempo until you can play everything with the proper relaxed technique at slower tempos. Practice with a metronome to focus on your timing and the accuracy of your rhythms. With correct rhythms in place, we can then worry about right notes.

Also, another option would be to play exercises along with your favorite songs. It's like playing with a metronome but a little more comfortable and appealing than listening to a constant beep. It even creates a musical context for you to relate your parts to. This is exactly what we do when we play together as ensemble. Don't be afraid to **groove** and have **fun** with the music. Then, you can apply that to your music. You should find a groove to your music even when the music is abstract. All music has checkpoints you can use to find a 'pocket' for you to play in.



Rehearsal Guidelines

In Marching Band, rehearsal time is VERY limited. It is imperative that we maximize this time as much as possible by being prepared for rehearsal 100% of the time. We will work hard but we will also work smart in order to put out the most consistently excellent product that we possibly can every performance.

*The first part of being prepared for rehearsal is personal preparation at home. You WILL be expected to show up every rehearsal prepared with what is asked of you.

*The second part of being prepared for rehearsals is coming with a good attitude and ready to drum from the first minute of rehearsal to the last. Part of this is arriving to all rehearsals ON TIME.

*Lastly, make sure you have everything you need for rehearsals with you at all times. Some of the items necessary for all music rehearsals are:

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| -Pencil | -Highlighter | -3-ring binder w/all music and exercises |
| -Sneakers | -Water bottle | -Sticks and/or mallets |

There are three positions where the mallets shall be during a rehearsal setting described below. We do not have our own parade rest, attention, etc., so these positions will serve in place for uniformity and etiquette.

Rest Position

Mallets are resting comfortably down at your side. This is like our parade rest position.

Set Position

Mallets are resting approximately one inch above the resonator of the keyboard, one inch above the drum for timpani players. Synthesizers should have their hands on the keyboard ready to play just like auxiliary percussion should be in a set position over the first instrument being used.

Up Position

Mallets are at the designated height ready to play. This position will happen at the end of the prep motion. Sometimes, you will be asked to start in this position.

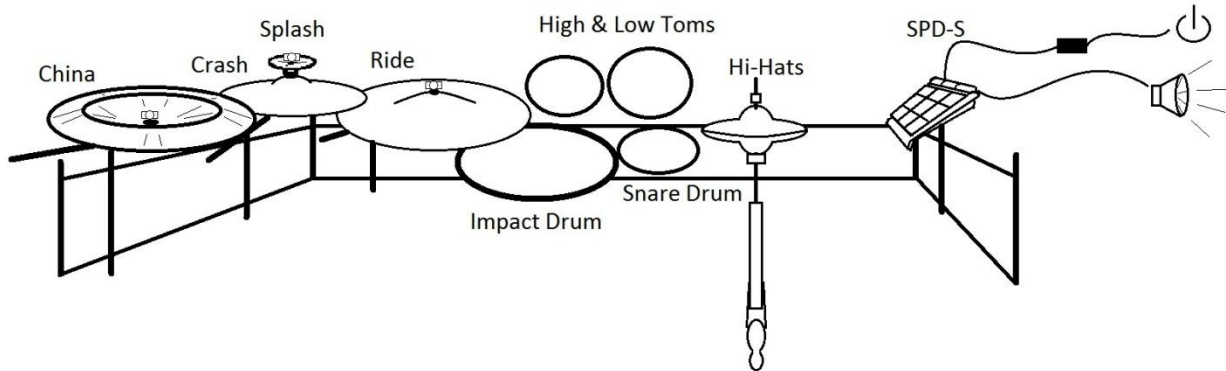
Cell Phones*

I understand that just about everyone has a cell phone. I do not mind if you have your cell phone out to keep track of time, **BUT** it must be kept on silent and you should **NOT be TEXTING!** If having your cell phone becomes a distraction, we will all (including myself) be putting our phones in a box during rehearsal time for the remainder of the season.



The Rack

The rack is big asset to the pit ensemble. This is where all the necessary accessory percussion and various cymbals lie. All these instruments add texture to the music. Cymbal swells, tom crescendos, and electronic sounds all help to give the audience an emotional attachment to the music. Below is a diagram of what we'll be using for the 2011 season. The image is not to scale and should only be used as a reference. Things may be added, moved, or removed for future purposes.

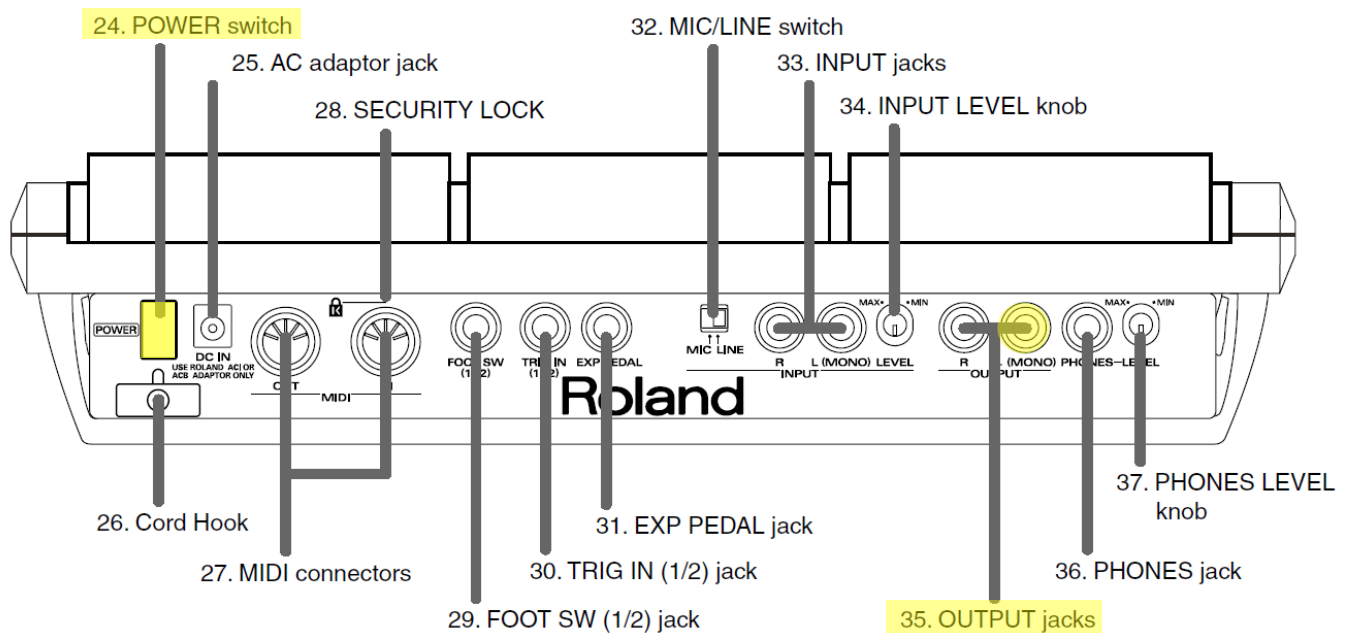
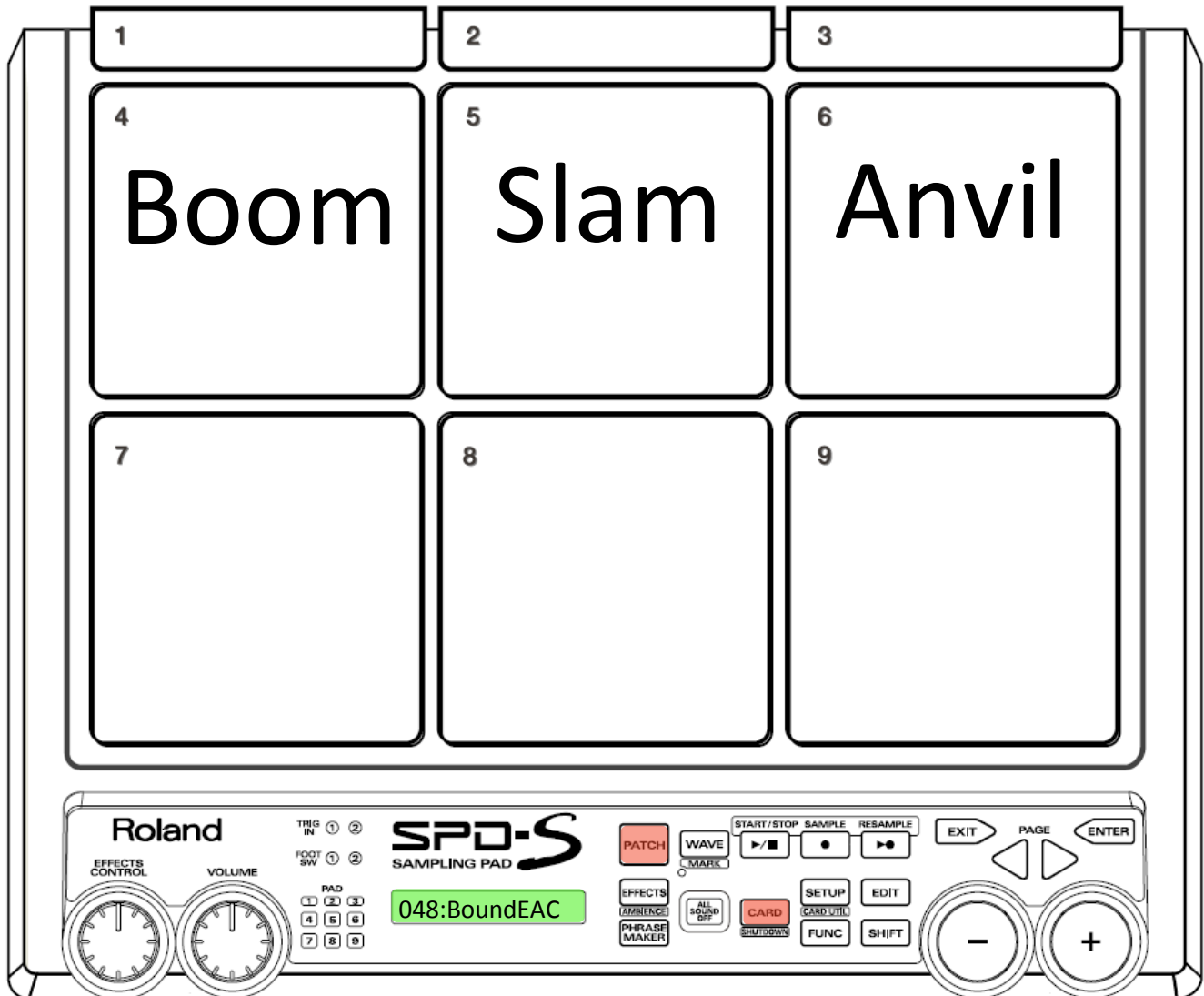


Care & Maintenance Tips

- All screws, wing nuts, bolts, etc should be screwed on appropriately. This includes during breakdown so that parts are not lost
- **Cymbals**
 - Wing nuts should be screwed tightly enough so they won't fly off but loose enough to let the cymbal vibrate freely
 - All cymbals should have a felt above and below them. During storage, felts should be kept on the cymbal stands and fastened down with the wing nut
 - Cymbals should be stored in the assigned cymbal bag
 - The h-hat stand will be the only thing not attached to the rack. It can be placed wherever is comfortable for playing
- **Clamps & Memory locks**
 - All pieces should be tight enough to hold whatever is being held but not too tight as to bend boom arms and/or strip the threading of the bolts and wing nuts
- **Drums**
 - All the drums should be mounted correctly before playing. All except the impact drum should be taken off the rack after rehearsal and shows to be stored safely
- **SPD-S**
 - This is attached to a boom arm using a special clamp. During storage the boom arm will stay on the rack but both the clamp and the SPD-S should be put in the *Roland* bag.
 - Along with the SPD-S and the clamp, the power cord and instrument cable will be stored in the *Roland* bag.
 - When traveling to and from rehearsal sites, the SPD-s and its accessories should be put in the *Roland* bag.
 - When traveling from the rehearsal site to the field for a show, the SPD-S can be kept on the rack with the cords wrapped up so they DO NOT DRAG on the ground.
- **Mallet/Stick Bags**
 - These will be attached in various places on the rack to hold sticks and mallets. All the implements should be stored in these bags. In turn, the bags should be taken off and stored also.
- All screws, wing nuts, bolts, etc should be screwed on appropriately. This includes during breakdown so that parts are not lost



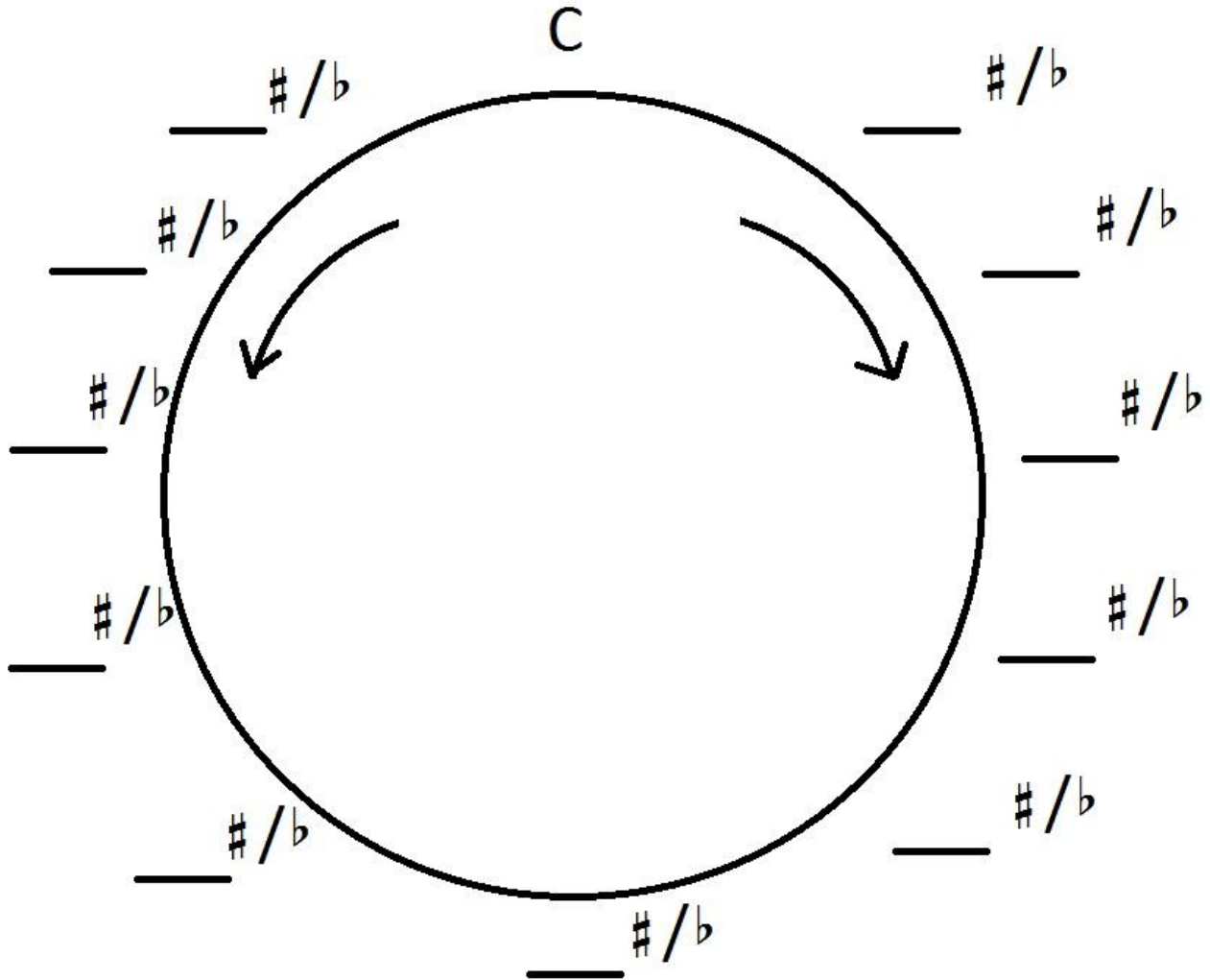
SPD-S





Circle of _____ 4ths and 5ths

For the following exercises, we will need to learn all 12 major scales. We will be learning them using the circle diagram below. Please fill in the blanks as we learn the scales and use this as a reference.



Use this space below for extra notes:



The 4-Chord-Song

Songs these days are based off a list of chords that happen normally within a scale. Below are the _____ of the chords. Write the notes above them to complete the chord. Then below, write the Roman numeral that shows the chords' correct qualities (Major, Minor, Diminished).

C	D	E	F	G	A	B
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

In the 4-Chord-Song Warm up, we are going to use these chords: _____, _____, _____, & _____. These 4 chords are used in a variety of popular songs. A variety of time signatures and musical feels will be used to give you a chance to learn a variety drum set styles.



General Information

Name _____

School/Grade _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Mother's Name _____

Father's Name _____

Personal Email _____

Family Email _____

Landmark that describes where you live (not address):
