

Beginning Percussion Materials, Care and Maintenance

- Snare sticks should be size 5A: Vic Firth or comparable brand
- Only use the sticks and mallets meant for each instrument: Bass drum mallet on Bass Drum, Snare sticks on snare drum, etc.
- Mallet choice can be very important when playing keyboard instruments.
 - Marimbas – only use yarn mallets
 - Xylophone – Rubber, Polyball (plastic) or Wood Mallets
 - Bells (Glockenspiel) – Polyball mallets are best, be careful of brass mallets
 - Chimes – rawhide mallets are the best, but you can use other harder mallets as well. Make sure to only play on the tops of the bars.
 - Bongos and Congas are meant to be played with the hands not hard drumsticks
- Be careful not to touch the snares on the bottom of the snare drum head as stretched, bent, or broken snare wires will affect the sound
- Do not place objects on top of drums or mallet instruments (such as notebooks, books, instrument cases) as they could damage the playing surface.
- Cover mallet instruments and timpani when done playing and put all equipment away