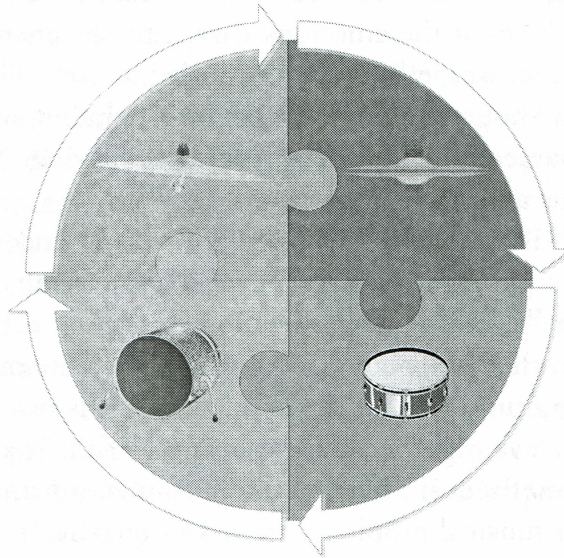


Drum Set Components



Style Drivers

When it comes to playing different styles of music, I think of the drum set as a family, not just a collection of instruments. Depending on the style of music I'm playing, I value each component of the drum set differently. However, I assign the most value to the component that is to be my main timekeeper, the instrument I'll use to communicate with the band.

For example, when I play funk music, I use the bass drum to communicate with the bass player. The snare drum is there to reinforce the time I lay down with my bass drum. The drum set component I use tells the members of the band this is a funk feel, rock feel, smooth jazz feel, etc. It could also communicate that this is a twelve-measured, blues-rock feel.

With those two components, anyone who hears what I am communicating will quickly understand what style and/or form of music I am playing. The bass player will hear what I am trying to communicate and (hopefully) will find a way to work with and fit into what I am doing. Together we create the foundation for the band. I lay down the rhythmic foundation and support the harmonic foundation the bass player is communicating. The bass player is laying down the harmonic foundation and supporting my rhythmic foundation. Together we create the foundation the music is built on.

If the music is more of a swing-based, triplet style, I will typically use my ride cymbal to communicate the time. I typically use my bass drum to communicate the time when the music is straight-based, eighth-, or sixteenth-note style.

In contemporary, straight-based styles such as funk, rock, pop, and/or Latin, the bass drum is the component I use to communicate the time.

I'm communicating three things to my band mates:

1. Feel: This is a funk feel, rock feel, etc.
2. Phrasing: This is a specific measured phrase or two-bar phrase feel.