

ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE

MARCHING MARAUDERS PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

HANDBOOK

Basic Care, Maintenance, & Tuning

After each rehearsal or performance, you should spend a few minutes checking the mechanics of both the drum(s) and the carrier for problems (e.g. loose hardware). If anything is not correct, you should fix it. You should also spend time at the end of each rehearsal tuning your instrument. On marching snares, the batter head should be tuned to an "A" and the resonant head should be tuned to the "D" above that. Each individual snare strand should also be tuned to a "D." Tom tuning will depend on need.

Stick & Mallet Selection

The AVC Marching Marauders (AVCMM) Percussion Ensemble uses Innovative Percussion FS-2 for marching snares and Innovative Percussion IP-1 Swizzle Sticks for toms. No other sticks are acceptable to use on the AVCMM battery equipment. Both should be wrapped with white electrical tape from bead to butt.

Marching

The visual component of the marching percussion ensemble is an important element to the overall presentation; you should wear close-toed athletic shoes to every rehearsal and clothes appropriate for physical activity.

Posture & Carrier Adjustment

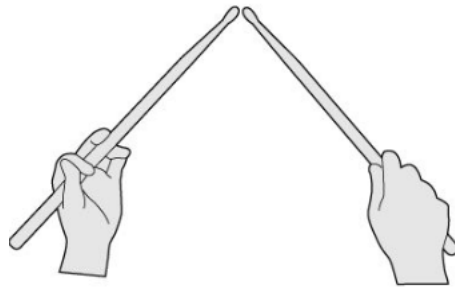
To avoid injury and look as uniform as possible, you should maintain good posture while carrying your instrument (the tendency is to lean back to compensate; this is *horrible* for your back). The carrier should allow for free movement of the hips/thighs while also placing the drum at a comfortable height in relationship to your hands.

Sticks Out/Stick In & Set

The "sticks in" position should be maintained at *all* times unless a) playing, or b) instructed to "relax" by your section leader or instructor. You should move from "sticks in" to "sticks out" as quickly as possible two counts before the first note, and from "sticks out" to "sticks in" one count after the final note. When carrying a drum and not in "relaxed" command, you should have your eyes affixed to a single point 30° above eye line.

Grip & Stroke

Both marching snares and toms will use "traditional grip." A picture for appropriate right and left hands are shown below. The stroke should be fluid and relaxed, balanced with enough power to get a good sound out of the drums.



TRADITIONAL

Height System

We use an angle system for dynamics (intensity).

Parallel to the drum (zero extension, 0°):	<i>piano</i>	(<i>p</i>)
Quarter extension (22.5°):	<i>mezzo-piano</i>	(<i>mp</i>)
Half extension (45°):	<i>mezzo-forte</i>	(<i>mf</i>)
Three-quarter extension (67.5°)	<i>forte</i>	(<i>f</i>)
Perpendicular to the drum (full extension, 90°):	<i>fortissimo</i>	(<i>ff</i>)

You'll often see two dynamics separated by a forward slash (e.g. *f/p*). This is instructing you to play accents (>) at *forte* (*f*) and taps (non-accented notes) at *piano* (*p*). Linear dynamic changes (*crescendo/decrescendo*) will be dictated by your section leader.

Being a Good Ensemble Member

1. Act Cool
(show up early, be respectful, be helpful, lead through service, be a team player)
2. Play Great
(always practice with a metronome, woodshed & repeat your parts regularly, try different dynamics and tempi, always mark time/march)

The Audition

You should practice all of the exercises and cadence for both the marching snare and tom-toms part with the goal of having all of it memorized. You will also be assessed on marching, so don't forget your feet! You do not "deserve" one instrument over the other; we are a team and you will be placed where you best serve the team. Lastly, space is limited to 11 active players; do not be discouraged if you are asked to be an alternate. You may just need some additional training, which you will receive by being in class (or we may not be ready for you; it's all about fit!).

Section Leaders

Two section leaders will be appointed (one for toms, one for snare) with the snare section leader (center snare) having authority over the toms section leader. If you wish to be section leader, you must let me know in person before the first day of auditions (right before the audition is fine). You will be expected to lead your section during the audition process (e.g. count off exercises, run sectionals, make appropriate comments), and you will need to answer one or more section leader interview questions before a decision is finalized.