

Lesson 1

Bass Drum Technique

(Based on the Book "Bass Drum Control" by Colin Bailey)

- **Slack Spring Tension** – If the spring tension is too tight it becomes more difficult to obtain a faster speed. Pull the beater ball back away from the bass drum head then release, allowing it to kick back and forth. The response should be a longer-lasting, deliberate back and forth motion. If the beater ball has a short, fast-ending duration then the tension is too tight.
- **Length of the Beater Stem** – I find that the best result is to place the stem at 4.75 inches, give or take 1/8 of an inch. If the stem is too short in length there is nothing to work with, and makes it more difficult to achieve faster multiple strikes.
- **Proper Footwear** – This technique requires your foot to be able to move smoothly over the pedal. Shoes with large bumps on the bottom, such as heavy boots, restrict smooth movement.
- **The Best Leverage on Footboard** – For the best leverage, use the ball of your foot (or back of your toes) placed on the footboard at about 4.5 inches from the top of the pedal.
- **Bass Drum Head Tension** – For myself, I like to use a tighter bass drum head. The "deader" the bass drum head is, the more difficult it is to use this technique. It can be done, however it requires more work to achieve the same results.
- **How to Strike the Bass Drum** – When striking the bass drum the beater immediately comes back to the same place it started from every time, regardless of how many beats are played. This comes from what I call an "ankle stroke" and it takes time to develop. The main thing is to feel comfortable bringing the beater back out of the drum. Eventually, you will get to a much faster speed.

For continued studies in fundamental, intermediate, and advanced drumming techniques go to DrumChannel.com and take lessons from Neil Peart, Chad Smith, Peter Erskine, Terry Bozzio, Stephen Perkins, Ralph Humphrey, Joe Porcaro, and a long list of the world's greatest drummers.