



**Texas Bandmasters Association
Convention/Clinic July 25-27, 2019**

**The Great Divide: Making the
Percussionists' Middle School Years
Count**

**CLINICIANS:
Ralph Hicks, Eric Rath**

**Demonstration Group: Canyon HS (Canyon
ISD), Wagner HS (Judson ISD), Let Them Drum
(The Woodlands)**

The Great Divide:

Making the Percussionists' Middle School Years Count

Eric Rath & Ralph Hicks
Clinicians

Texas Bandmasters
Association

Friday, July 26th 5:00 pm
CC 214AB

Percussion

Noisy

Stagnant

Sleepy

Daily Drill

Off task

Bored

Stereotypes

***Not
invested***

Why?

Lack of attention

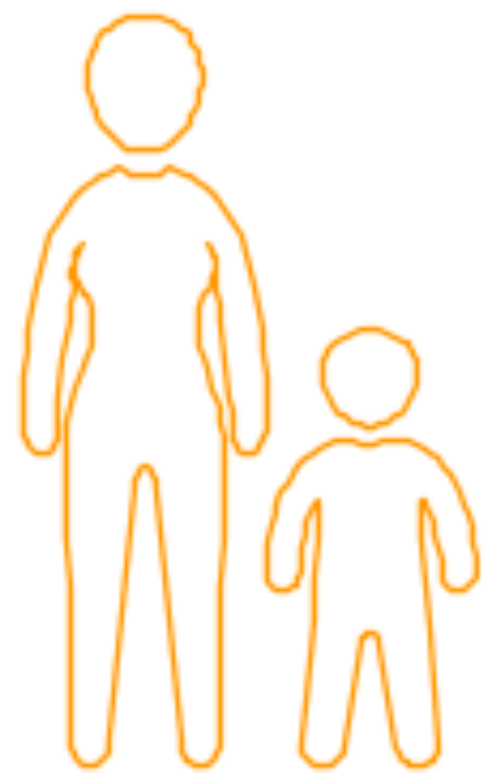
Lack of direction

Feel second

Understimulated

***They Aren't
DUMB***

The situation...



Beginner Band

Lots of attention
Basic Skills
Commonly a separate class



High School

Much higher expectations
Much more advanced technique
Usually combined classes

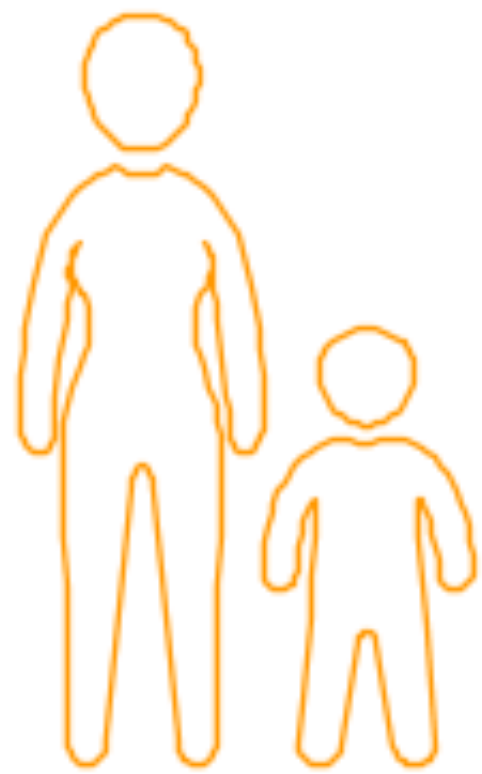
How they see it...



How they see it without us...



Where we come in...



Three Choices

Babysit

*More behavior issues
Less retention*

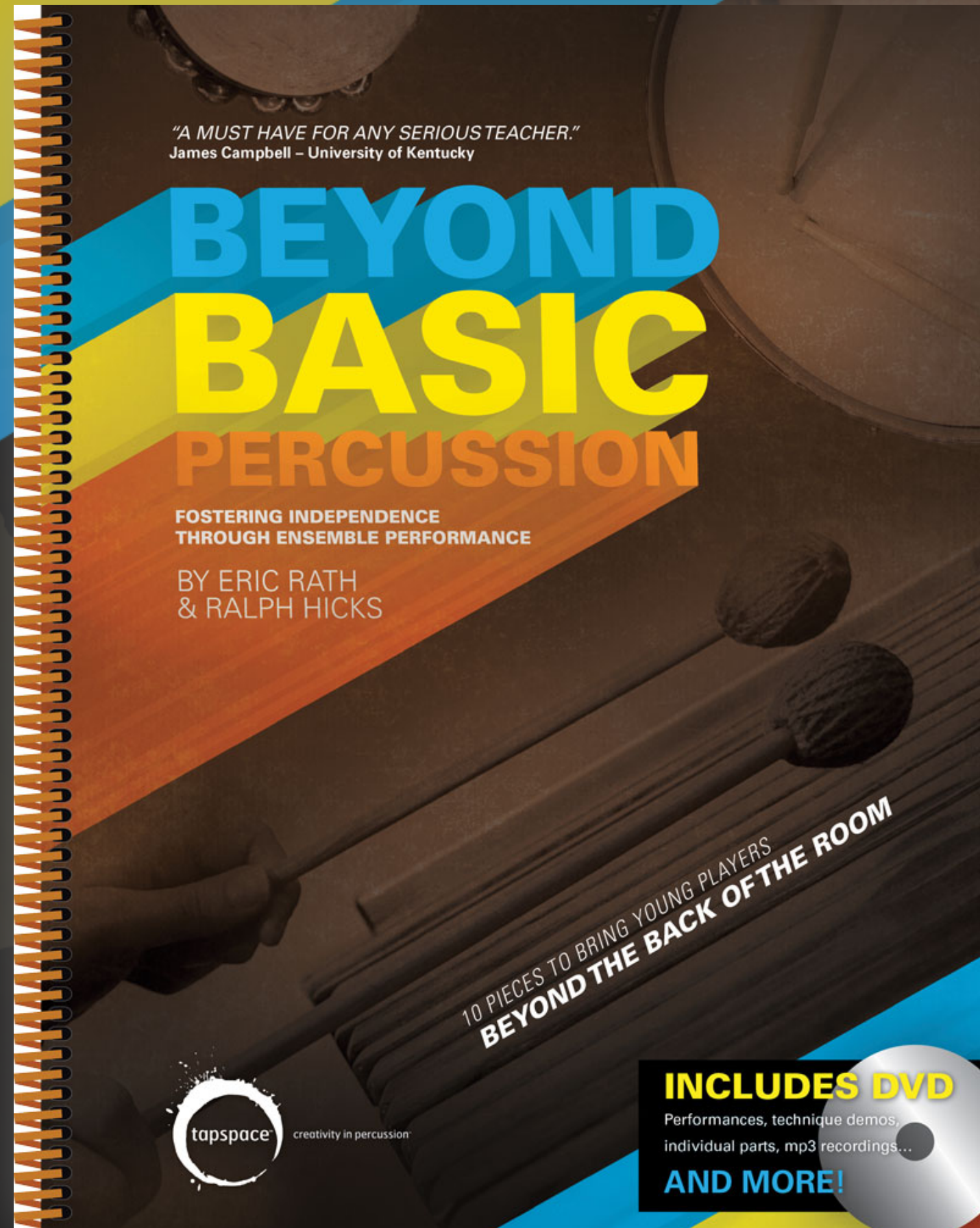
Keep Busy

*Feel placated
Limited development*

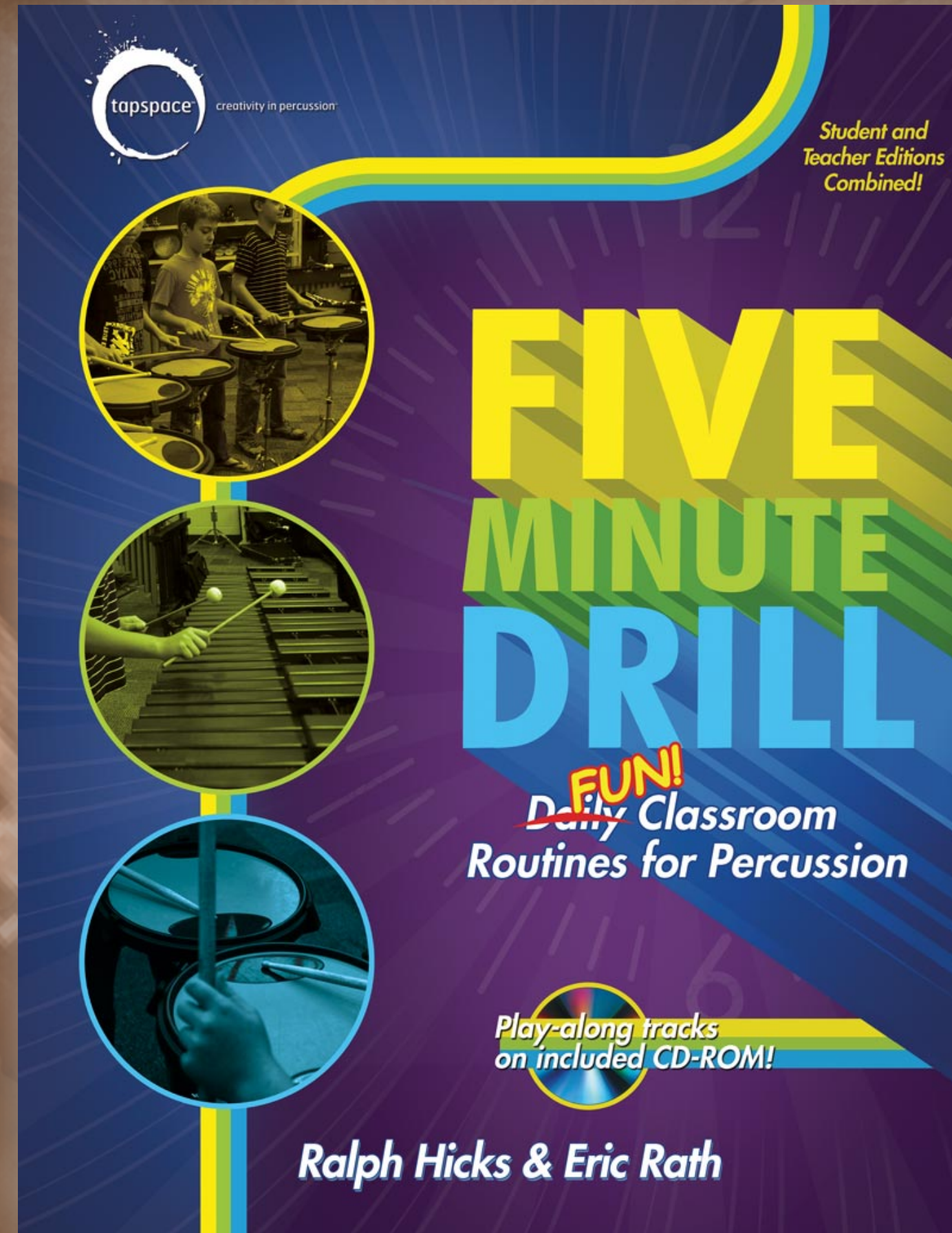
Engage

*Same attention as winds
Limited behavior issues*

How we'll do it...



Percussion
Ensembles



Intermediate
Technique



Advanced
Technique



Part One

Maximizing Your Full Band Daily Drill

Part Two

Technique Through Ensemble Performance



Part One

Maximizing Your Full Band Daily Drill



***Working
Separately***

***Fully
Integrated***



Working

Separately....



Student and Teacher Editions Combined!



FIVE MINUTE DRILL

FUN!
Daily Classroom Routines for Percussion

Play-along tracks on included CD-ROM

Ralph Hicks & Eric Rath



Teacher & Student Editions Combined!

NINE MINUTE DRILL



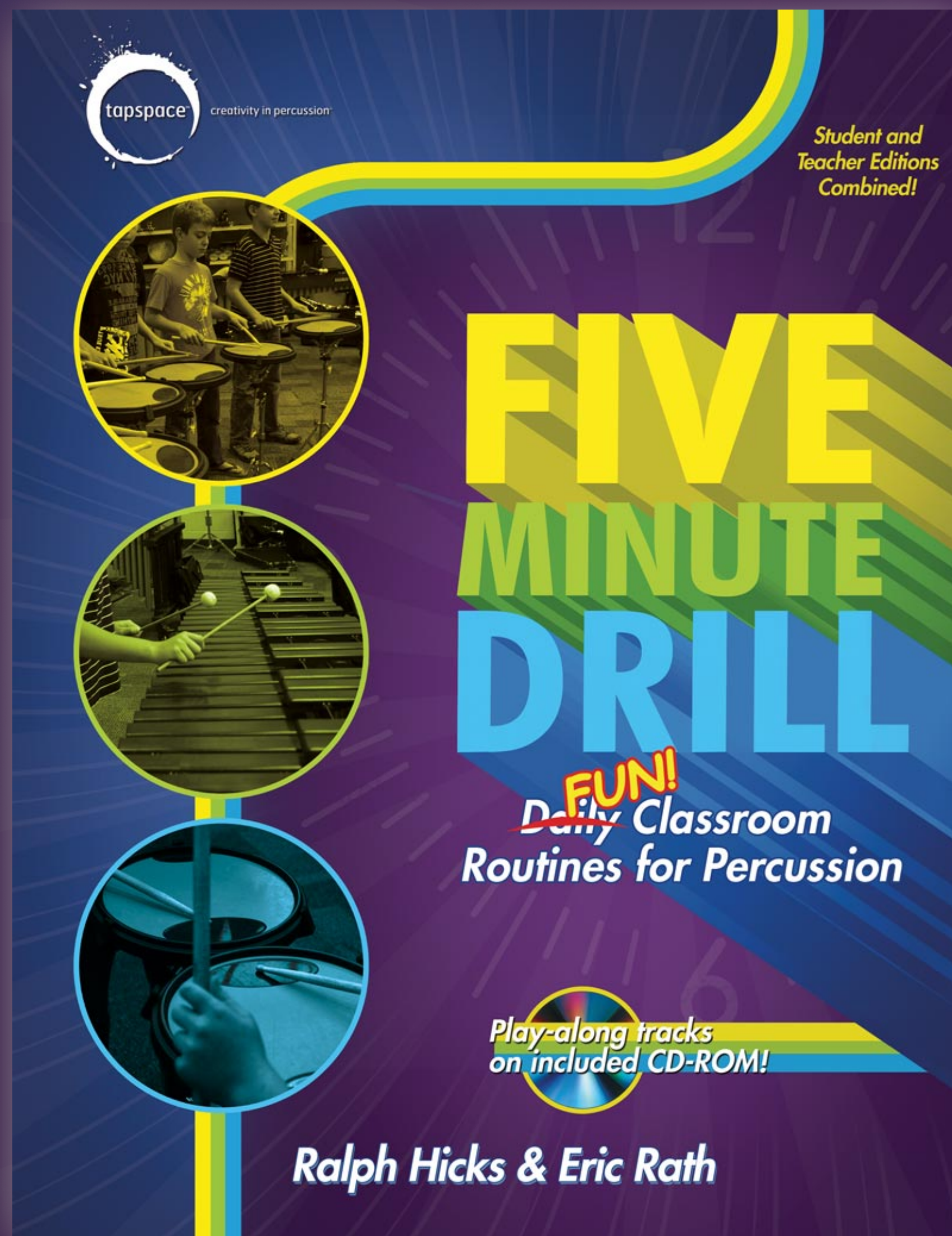
THE NEXT LEVEL
of Classroom Routines for Percussion

Ralph Hicks & Eric Rath

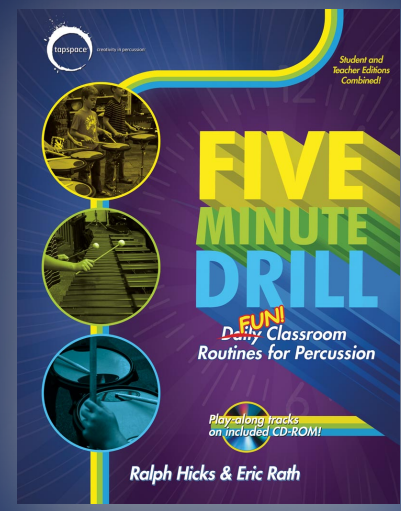
Play-along tracks on included CD-ROM!

- Alternative to doubling winds
- Practice pad and keyboard exercises
- Covers your bases
- Short and sweet
- Fun play along tracks
- Data Tracking

Can fit within a normal daily drill schedule, including moving and setup time!

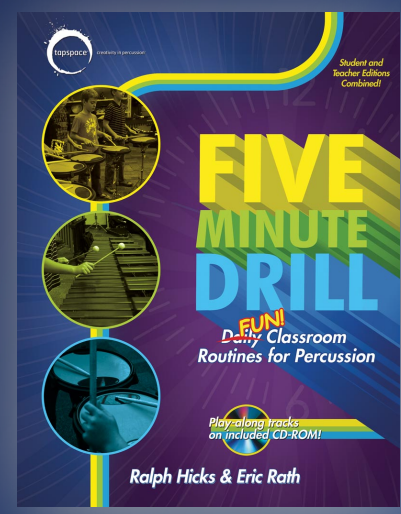


- Meant for second year players
- Basic practice pad & keyboard technique
- Can be run by non percussionists or student leaders
- Flexible for different time allotments
- Data tracking
- 93 playback tracks!



Common Expectations by High School

- Legato strokes
- Height Control
- Flams
- Paradiddles
- Timing Patterns
- Double Strokes
- Buzz Strokes
- Accent Taps
- Major Scales & Arpeggios
- Chromatic Scales (C to C and F to F)



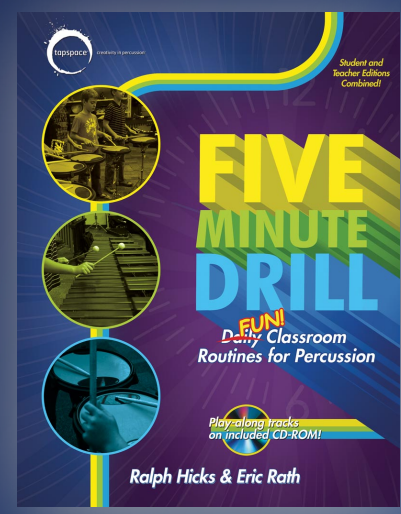
Practice Pad Drills

Based on essential techniques

Repetition to develop muscle memory

Equal coordination between hands

Can be monitored by non percussionists *(with a simple checklist)*



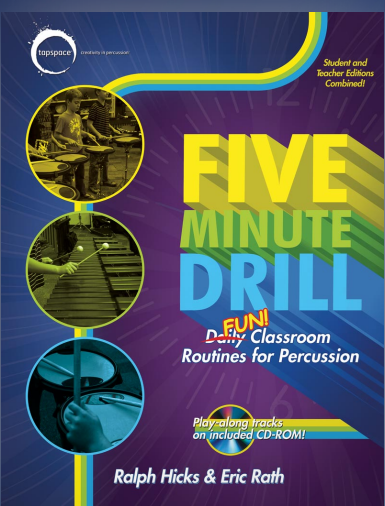
Keyboard Drills

More idiomatically appropriate for keyboard percussion technique

Simple scale/arpeggio exercises
(great for learning scales!)

Can play a lot of 8th/16th notes
(instead of rolling with the band..)

Help to develop a full, rebounding piston stroke



Broken up in small chunks...

MINUTE DRILL

Legato Strokes & Dynamics

QUICK TIPS

Legato Strokes

- Consistent heights and grip
- Relaxed, smooth motion from the wrist
- Back fingers on stick
- Hand at rest stays set
- Mostly wrist with a little arm

Dynamics

- Consistent heights and grip
- Relaxed, smooth motion from the wrist
- Don't slow down or speed up
- Be patient and gradual when changing heights for a crescendo or decrescendo

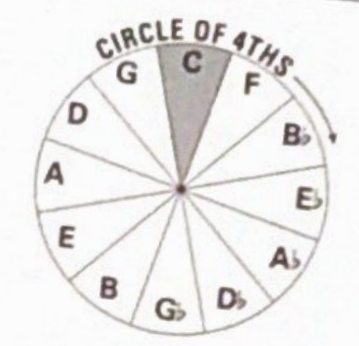
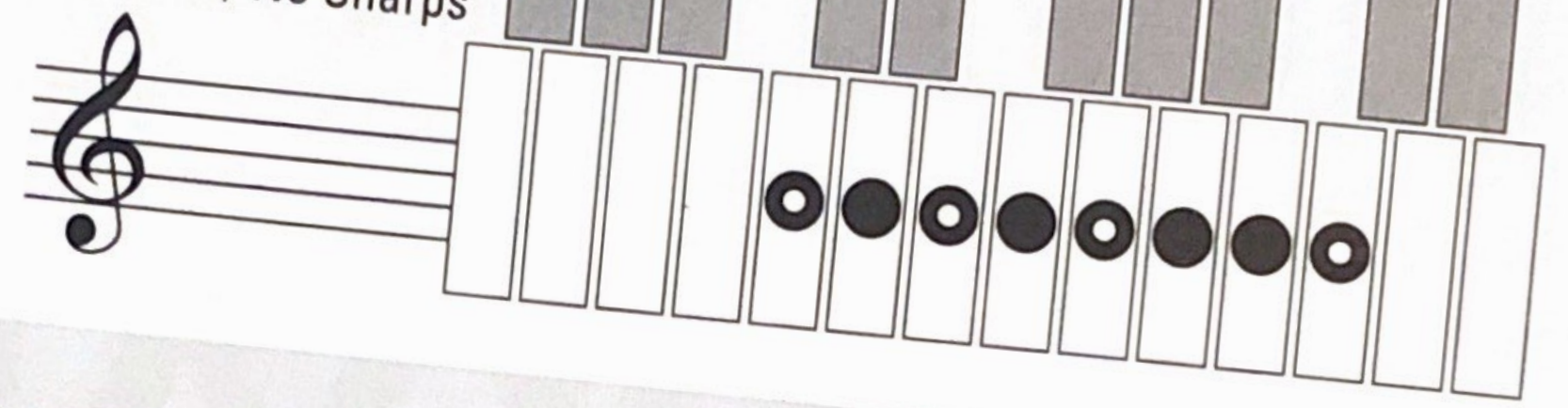
Play-along Tracks
 01 - SLOW - 84 bpm (01'47")
 02 - MEDIUM - 100 bpm (01'30")
 03 - FAST - 116 bpm (01'18")

COUNT-OFF "1" "2" "1" "2" "3"

FIVE MINUTE DRILL

C Major

No Flats / No Sharps



TIP of the DAY

Be sure to use a relaxed legato stroke. A fluid motion goes a long way!

Play-along Tracks

25 - SLOW - 92 bpm (01'47")
 26 - MEDIUM - 104 bpm (01'35")
 27 - FAST - 116 bpm (01'25")

(Drum intro) 3 "READY" "GO!"

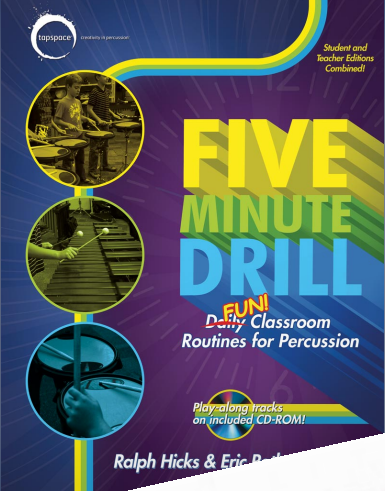
FOUR-NOTE

Scale

Paradiddle Turnaround

Arpeggio

Scale



STUDENTS

Weekly Practice Log

This chart was designed to be used by **individual students** to help track their daily practice routines and habits. It is based around a 6-day practice regimen... a day off never hurt anyone! We recommend 30 minutes a day in order to see steady progress.

Remember that *some practice is better than no practice*. If you don't have time to practice for a full 30 minutes, do what you can and log the results anyway. Every little bit helps!

FIVE MINUTE DRILL Weekly Practice Log

Student Name: Johnny "Stix" McJamband

Mark your progress:
 S = Slow Track worked
 M = Medium Track worked
 F = Fast Track worked

Day 1
 11/7/13
 Date

Practice Pad

- Legato Strokes & Dynamics
- Flams & Paradiddles
- Timing Patterns
- Double Strokes
- Buzz Strokes & Accents
- Chicken and a Roll
- Time to Jam!
- Full Pad Sequence

Minutes Worked: 10

Major Scales

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	C	Gb
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	F	B
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bb	E
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ab	A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Db	D
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	G	G

Minutes Worked: 10

Chromatic Scales

Circle one: C to C F to F

- Breakdown One
- Breakdown Two
- Breakdown Three
- Breakdown Four
- Full Chromatic Sequence

Minutes Worked: 10

Circle one: C to C F to F

- Breakdown One
- Breakdown Two
- Breakdown Three
- Breakdown Four

Individual and class data tracking

TEACHERS

Progress Chart

This chart was designed to be used by the **teacher** in the classroom and will help track students' progress on a weekly basis throughout the year. Indicate the speed—**S** for Slow, **M** for Medium, **F** for Fast—of the play-along track you used for a particular exercise in the appropriate column. We highly recommend starting all new concepts at the Slow speed while having students count out loud.

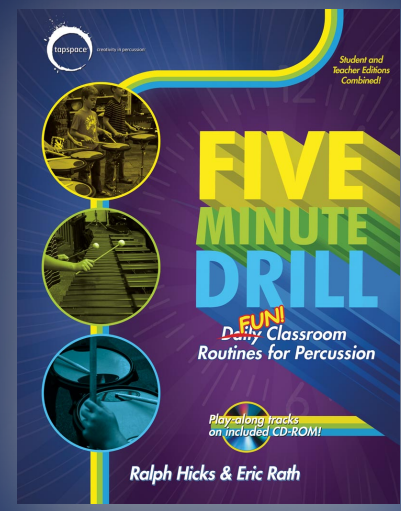
Mark your progress:
 S = Slow Track worked
 M = Medium Track worked
 F = Fast Track worked

FIVE MI

PRACTICE PAD

- Legato Strokes & Dynamics
- Flams & Paradiddles
- Timing Patterns
- Double Strokes
- Buzz Strokes & Accents/Taps
- Chicken and a Roll
- Time to Jam!
- FULL PAD SEQUENCE
- C Major

	Grading Period 1					Grading Period 2				
	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5	Wk 1	Wk 2	Wk 3	Wk 4	Wk 5
Legato Strokes & Dynamics										
Flams & Paradiddles	S	S	M	M	F	F				
Timing Patterns		S	S	S	M	M	F	F	F	F
Double Strokes					S	S	M	M	F	F
Buzz Strokes & Accents/Taps							S			
Chicken and a Roll										
Time to Jam!										
FULL PAD SEQUENCE										
C Major										



Practice Pad Checklist

Legato Strokes/Dynamics

Flat palm, fingers on stick
Dynamics happen through height
Stick should move "smooth"

Flams/Paradiddles

Hardly lift for grace note
Go for the "chut" sound

Timing Patterns/Double Strokes

One hand fluid, one hand down strokes

Double Strokes

Use the rebound from the stick
Fingers relax but stay on

Buzz Strokes

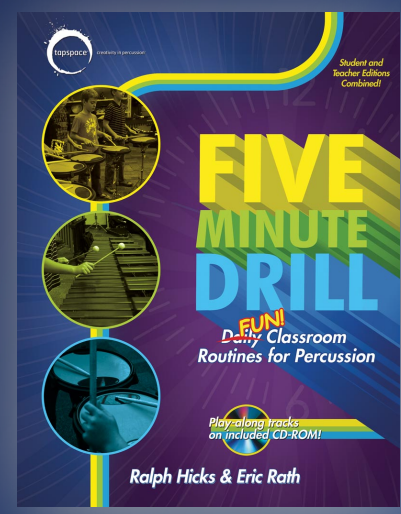
Add some arm, stick flat to drum
Make the buzz last as long as possible

Accent Taps

Happens through height, not strength
Stick should still move natural

Buzz Rolls

Use arm, stay flat to drum
Try to make buzzes touch



Keyboard Checklist

Use a relaxed legato stroke

Big mallet height for muscle memory

Center of the bars

Consistent sound, velocity, and energy

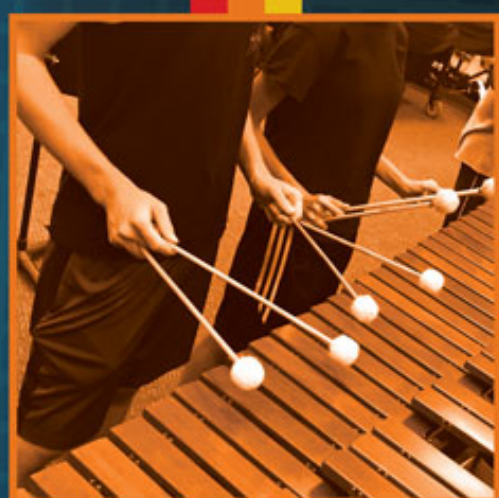
Pay attention to the shape your hands make

Anchor Points (chromatic)



Teacher & Student Editions Combined!

NINE MINUTE DRILL



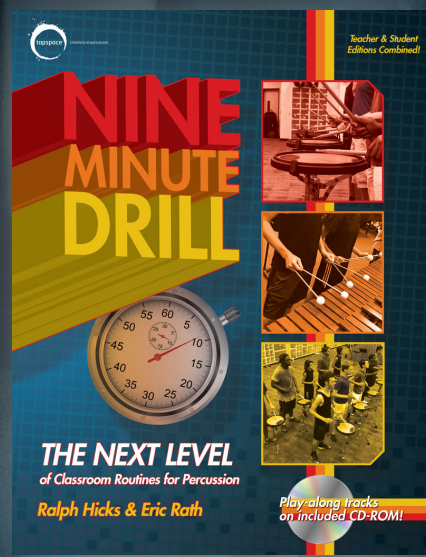
THE NEXT LEVEL
of Classroom Routines for Percussion

Ralph Hicks & Eric Rath

Play-along tracks
on included CD-ROM!

- Advanced middle school, high school
- More intense practice pad technique
- Many more in-depth keyboard techniques
- Two and four mallets





Practice Pad Checklist

Legato Strokes/Dynamics/Accents

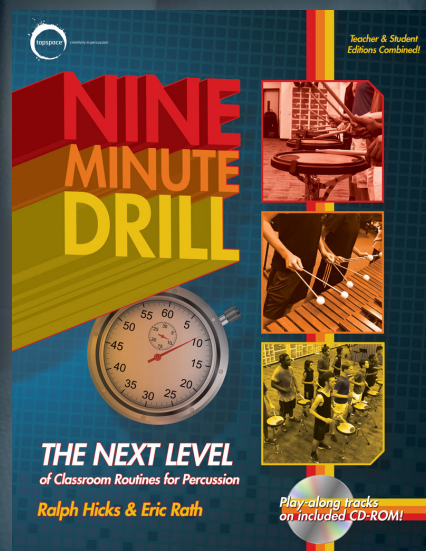
16th Note Accents/Buzzes/Timing
Patterns

Double Strokes and Paradiddles

Flam Rudiments

Diddles and Singles





Keyboard Checklist

Major Scales

Arpeggios

Interval Scales

Octaves

Chromatic Motion

Green Style Exercises

Four Mallet Exercises





Fully

Integrated...

Doubling On Keyboards

Much more likely to play accessory percussion than snare drum, keyboard or timpani

Learning a few techniques per instrument goes a long way

Bolsters importance of these instruments

Importance of Accessory Percussion

Much more likely to play accessory percussion than snare drum, keyboard or timpani

Learning a few techniques per instrument goes a long way

Bolsters importance of these instruments



Part Two

***Technique Through Ensemble
Performance***

In a percussion ensemble

■ ■ ■

Each member plays a more important role
developing independence

Parts tend to be more rhythmically intricate
developing listening skills

New techniques can be introduced
*developing a more well
rounded Percussionist*

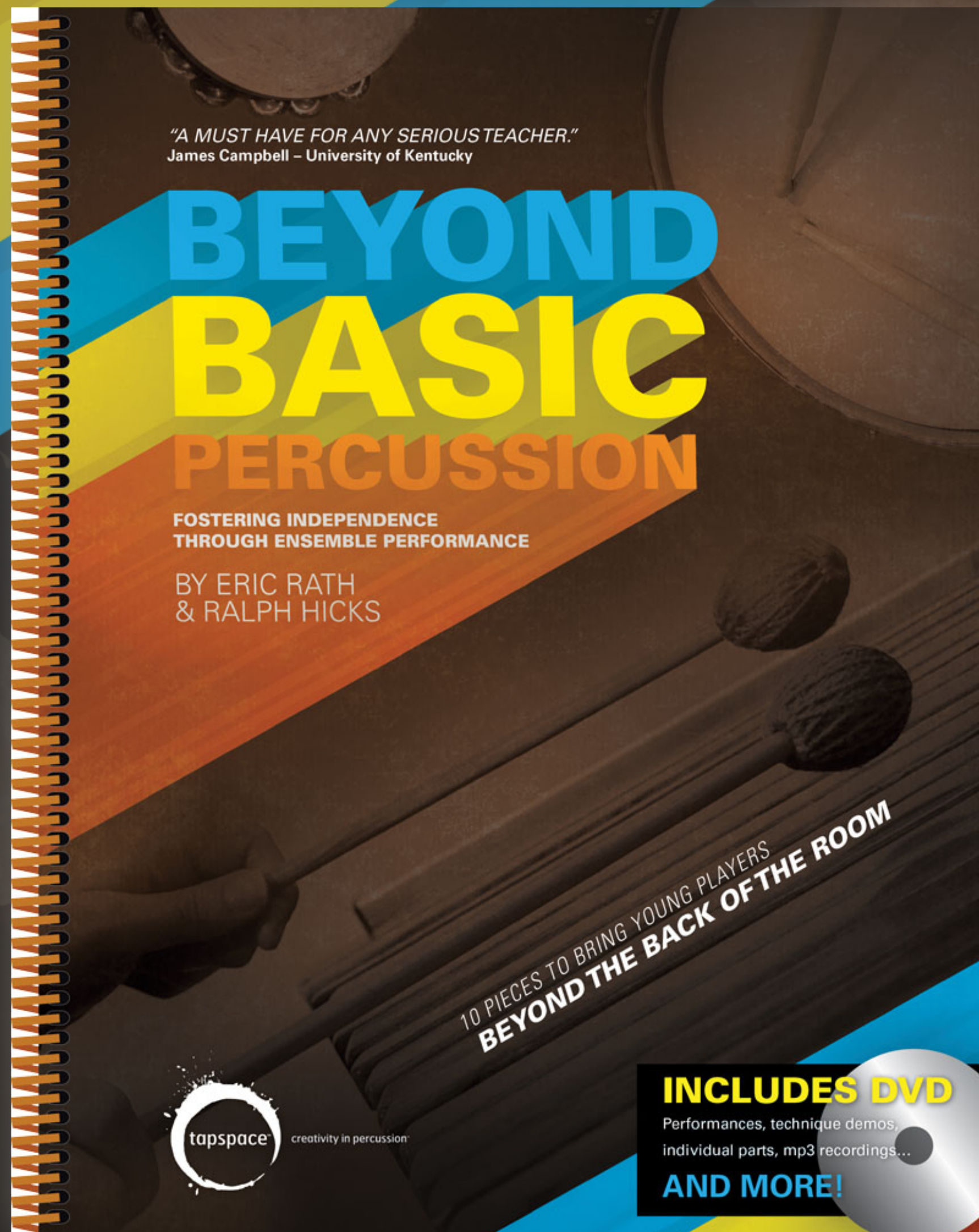


Accessory Percussion

The “Trap Table”

Multiple Percussion

Latin Percussion



- 10 easy to medium ensembles
- Each ensemble addresses specific percussion concepts
- Approaching percussion musically
- Accessories & Trap Tables
- Muleti Percussion
- Unique Sounds and sticking patterns
- Equipment Logistics

A close-up photograph of a hand playing a xylophone. The hand is holding a wooden mallet, striking one of the wooden bars. The xylophone's frame and other bars are visible in the background. The image is overlaid with a colorful diagonal graphic consisting of stripes in orange, yellow, and blue. The text 'Accessory Percussion' is written in a white, bold, italicized font across the center of the image.

Accessory

Percussion

“The Big Three”

Snare Drum, Keyboards and Timpani

“The Next Five”

Tambourine, Triangle, Bass Drum,
Castanets & Cymbals (Suspended &
Crash)

Also...

Finger Cymbals, Sleigh Bells, Cabasa,
Woodblocks, Vibraslap, (less!) Cowbell,
Slapstick, Mark Tree (wind chimes), etc.



The “Trap Table”

Trap Table:

a flat music stand* with a folded towel to hold sticks, mallets, and small instruments while not in use.

**Pearl, LP, Gibraltar, and Yamaha all make terrific trap tables for purchase*

Helps negotiate instrument switches

Can allow for choice in mallet selection (*IPJC 1000 vs IPJC 1002*)

Great place for a pencil, metronome, jewelry, etc.

Helps with idle hands

Instruments do NOT belong on the floor!

A close-up photograph of a person's hands playing a mridangam, a traditional Indian drum. The drum is made of wood and has a woven texture. The person is holding a mridangam stick and striking the drum. The background is dark, and there are colorful diagonal stripes in shades of orange, yellow, and blue on the left and right sides of the image.

Multiple

Percussion

Multiple Percussion:

when a Percussionist plays an assortment of instruments simultaneously

Commonly called for in band literature

Requires more attention to detail
(notation, instrument location and orientation, etc.)

Can often require two different playing touches at once (ie. snare drum with right, triangle with left, etc.)



Latin

Percussion

Latin Percussion:

generally Afro-Cuban music that also includes Brazilian/South American influences and Caribbean influences (Trinidad & Tobago)

Exposure to Afro-Cuban Instruments and their traditional musical roles

Teaches syncopation

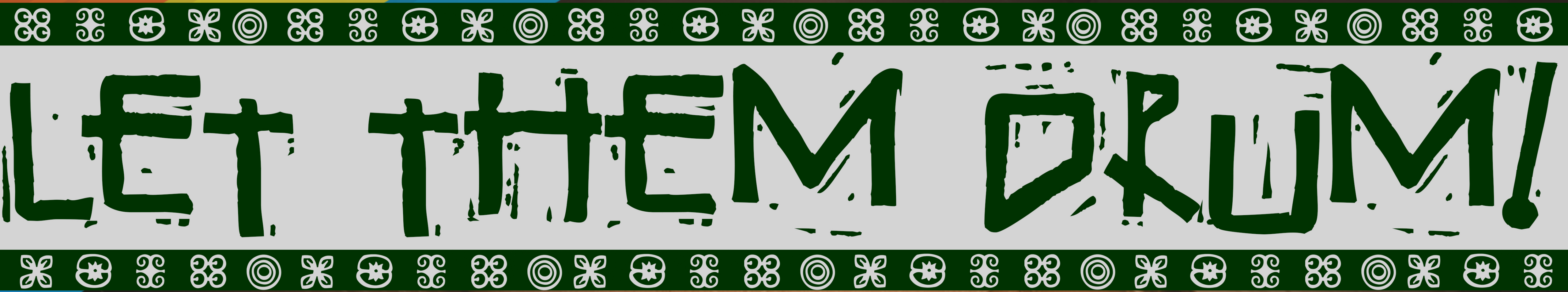
Guaranteed crowd pleaser

Is a LOT of fun to play!



Before we

wrap it up....



LET THEM DRUM!

LTD Junkyard Jam!

Before the US Army Band
@ Lila Cockrell Theater

6:45-7:15pm

Outside Bar Rojo

SEE YOU THERE!



Mr. Rath

erathmusic@gmail.com

Mr. Hicks

rhicks@letthemdrum.org

A close-up photograph of a hand playing a mridangam drum. The drum is made of wood and has a woven texture. The hand is holding a mridangam stick and is in the process of striking the drum. The background is dark, and there are colorful diagonal stripes in shades of blue, yellow, and orange. The text "Thanks for" is written in a white, bold, italicized font across the top left of the image.

Thanks for

coming!