

Percussion 101: Wood Block, Temple Blocks and TamTam

Wood Blocks and Temple Blocks

Video 1 (Characteristics and Maintenance)

- 1) Are temple blocks a suitable substitute for wood blocks?

- 2) What direction should the “slit” face when playing the woodblock?

- 3) Where is the “sweet spot” on a woodblock?

- 4) What kind of mallet should be used on a woodblock?

- 5) What is the difference between woodblocks and temple blocks?

Tam Tam

Video 1: Characteristics, setup, maintenance

- 1) Technically, what is the difference between a tam tam and a gong?

- 2) What is a typical size for a tam tam?

- 3) How do you set up the tam tam relative to the conductor and where to you stand to play it?

Video 2 - Mallet Selection

- 1) What kind of mallet should you NOT use on a tam tam?
- 2) How do you play rolls on a tam tam?

Video 3: General Playing Techniques

- 1) Where is the ideal playing spot on the tam tam?
- 2) What does it mean to “warm up” the tam tam?
- 3) How do you muffle the tam tam?
- 4) What is the most typical problem when it comes to playing the tam tam?

Video 4: Special Effects

- 1) The video lists four “special effects” - what are they and how do you execute them?