

BUYING FOR THE BACK OF THE BAND



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PREMISE AND OVERVIEW



- Purpose of this Presentation
 1. Help band directors navigate the percussion marketplace in order to provide the ideal equipment for students and make the most of allotted funds
 2. Gain a greater understanding of reliable equipment, products, and companies
- The Scope of this Presentation
 1. Instruments, hardware, supplies and implement options
 2. Making v. Buying
 3. Buying guides for middle and high school programs with varying budgetary levels based on usage
- The Limits of this Presentation
 1. Broad overview of concert percussion ONLY (no jazz, world, marching, electronics, etc.)
 2. Repair and maintenance
 3. Specific pricing

BUYING CONSIDERATIONS

PURPOSE

- Why do I need this?
- Middle school v. High school
- Outdoor v. Indoor
- Concert only v. Multi-purpose

LONGEVITY

- How long with this last?
- Treatment and maintenance
- Proper storage daily
- Type of equipment

QUALITY

- How good is this product?
- What you pay is what you get
- Make v. Buy
- Students see *lack* of quality

** we are a NEEDY section and require consistent monitoring, maintenance, and management **

** research based on reviews by band directors and percussion specialists **

** know the 'make and model' of your equipment **

BUYING CATEGORIES



Instruments

- ◆ Primary
- ◆ Auxiliary



Implements



Hardware Supplies & Parts

I. INSTRUMENTS: PRIMARY

- Snare Drum

- General size: 5x14" (regardless of grade level)
- Other common sizes: 4x14" and 6.5x14"
- Material: wood or metal (plied shell)
- Metal if used for marching band
- Trusted companies: Pearl, Black Swamp, Majestic



- Field Drum

- Deeper than snare drums: 10+ x 14"
- Recommended only at high school level
- Depth makes drumset SD stand necessary
- Trusted companies: Pearl, Black Swamp



I. INSTRUMENTS: PRIMARY

- Bass Drum

- Size: 32" diameter for middle school, 36" diameter for high school
- Material: wood shell with lacquered or plastic-wrap finish
- Consider frame type if used for marching band
- Suspended v. Standing
 - Benefits: freely resonates, tilting for accurate angle
 - Drawbacks: cannot easily be removed from stand, no BD/cym attachment
- Trusted companies: Ludwig, Pearl, Majestic, Adams



- Cymbals

- Suspended
 - General size: 16"-18"
 - Medium to medium-heavy thickness
- Crash (Hand or clash)
 - General size: 16" to 20" (smaller for younger students)
 - Most do not come with straps and pads, so double check
 - Medium to medium-heavy thickness
- Trusted companies: Zildjian, Sabian, Dream



I. INSTRUMENTS: PRIMARY

- Glockenspiel
 - Standard size: 2.5 octave
 - Material: steel
 - Key width: 1.25" to 1.5" and depth: 1/4" to 3/8"
 - Recommended: chrome or satin ("polished") finish
 - Most do not come with an x-stand unless built on frame
 - Trusted companies: Yamaha, Musser, DeMorrow
- Xylophone
 - Standard size: 3.5 octave
 - Material: rosewood (indoor use only) or synthetic
 - Acoustalon, kelon, zelon
 - Key width: 1.5" to 1 5/8"
 - Trusted companies: Yamaha, Adams, Musser



I. INSTRUMENTS: PRIMARY

- Marimba
 - Standard size: 4.3 octave
 - Material: synthetic or wood
 - Consider frame type and synthetic if used for marching band
 - Trusted companies: Marimba One, Adams, Yamaha
- Vibraphone
 - Standard size: 3.0 octave
 - Non-graduated bars acceptable for middle school only
 - Motor v. No motor
 - Consider frame type if used for marching band
 - Trusted companies: Marimba One, Adams, Yamaha
- Chimes
 - Standard size: 1.5 octave
 - Material: brass or chrome
 - AKA tubular bells
 - Consider frame type if used for marching band
 - Trusted companies: Adams, Yamaha, Musser



I. INSTRUMENTS: PRIMARY

- Timpani

- Typical sizes: 32", 29", 26", 23", 20" (ascending L to R)
- How many should you have?
 - Middle school: 2-3 (26" and 29", then 32", then 26")
 - High school: 4-5 (full set, then add 20")
- Bowl material: fiberglass or copper
- Head: synthetic
- Consider terrain wheels if used for marching band
- Recommended: tuning gauges ; not necessary: fine tuners
- Purchase BALANCED ACTION pedals (NOT pedal locking or block style)
- Trusted companies: Adams, Ludwig, Yamaha

- Gong/Tam-Tam

- Firstly, what is the difference?
- Commonly range from 24" to 40"
 - Middle school: 28" or 30"
 - High school: 32" or 34"
- Recommended: purchase a heavy-duty stand with wheels
- Trusted companies: Steve Weiss, Paiste, Meinl



I. INSTRUMENTS: PRIMARY



Balanced Action



Pedal Locking

