

# Drum Set

## Bare Bones Productions

*The Drum Set is also known as a “Kit”, “Set”, “Traps”, or “Traps Set”*

The name “*Traps*” comes from the word Contraption which is what some of the early Jazz drum sets were! The modern Drum Set was developed out of the almost ludicrous array of percussion instruments used by musicians. From it’s eclectic beginnings, the basic drum set has become and remains one of the most well-known and easily recognizable instruments in today’s music. Invented in the 19th century after the creation of the bass drum pedal, drum sets have grown to become the staple of nearly all modern popular music.

### The "Standard" Drum Set.



As widely varied as the people who play them, two drum sets are rarely ever alike. , The “Standard” Drum Set is frequently changed to modify the sounds one can produce. Rock drummers, for example, often use lots of cymbals and tom-toms to flesh out fills and create more variation while Latin drummers use a lot of Bells and Wood-Blocks to emulate the traditional percussion sounds. Many drummers use an additional mid-level tom-tom, and some even use two bass drums to create an extremely heavy, frenetic pace.

### Today’s standard drum set consists of 5 main components:

- 1.) The Bass Drum or “Kick”, the large drum in the middle which is played with the foot using a bass drum pedal.
- 2.) The Snare Drum which is played with drum-sticks and gets it’s name from the metal wires on the bottom that rattle when the drum is struck.
- 3.) The Tom-Toms which are mounted above the Bass Drum via stands and called “Rack Toms” and the Floor Tom which stands alone. Tom-Toms are played with sticks and can have drum-heads (the striking surface covering the drum) on one or both sides.
- 4.) The Crash and Ride Cymbals, the metal discs that are suspended above the Kit with stands and played for accents.
- 5.) The High-Hats, two smaller cymbals, one on top of the other on a stand with a foot pedal for opening and closing the cymbals for different effects.

The various pieces of the drum set have origins spanning thousands of years. The Bass drum came from the Turks in the 14th Century, The cymbals were originally Chinese and the Tom-Toms came from African Djun-Djuns. As the use of Africans for slave labor became more common in the 1800’s, the slaves began creating their own variations of their culture’s instruments. Slaves were not generally allowed to play music, but hand-crafted drum sets were often ignored, and by the time more of America recognized the drum set’s existence, no one even knew it had been originally created by African-American slaves.

As America entered the 20th century, drum sets and African rhythms began to break into the mainstream. As more beats relied on the use of cymbals, the size of the cymbals gradually increased and the size of the hi-hat was increased to make playing with sticks easier. Thus, the modern drum set as we know it today began to take its shape.