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Using Digital Drums and Technology as a Teaching/Learning Tool for Drummers
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Digital Drums have been largely used as a high-end specialty performance instrument. But, due to recent innovations, these drums now provide enhanced learning and teaching capabilities, whether used individually, in tandem, or in interactive lab settings at home, school, or in the studio.

School, University, professional educators, and students of all ages and levels can incorporate the use of these instruments as basic-thru-advanced teaching/learning tools. Doing so, has the potential to help re-define how the drumset is taught in jazz and other contemporary styles of music, increasing both productivity and interest of the student, and the effectiveness of the instructor.

Towards developing skills on the drumset, some of the essential elements that are taught and practiced regularly include technique, styles, musicality, time, feel, sound, playing music. The digital drumset allows for some advantages in the following ways:

- practice anytime, any style, any tempo
- work on time, feel, grooves, improvisation
- virtually unlimited choice of sounds, incl. instruments you don't own or play
- instantly tunable, independently assignable, multiple sounds per pad
- small footprint
- stock songs/sequences that are tempo-adjustable w/assignable click - thru headphones or speakers (same source as drums). These songs can be played with or without drums, bass, other accompaniment
- songs/sequences are programmable and expandable
- some have 'groove check' that allows you to check the accuracy of your time (w/ or w/out sequence or song)
- expanded capabilities through Mac/PC
- expanded creative & learning capabilities via sampling
- downloadable sounds, files, sequences, loops, etc.
- can play external audio sources thru unit (iPod, laptop, CD player, etc.)
- can play external digital sources thru unit (sequencers, MIDI instruments, computer, etc.)
- in a lab setting, many students can be taught and learn simultaneously and semi-privately

Marc Dicciani is Director of the School of Music at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, and a Professor of Drumset. He has performed with Randy Brecker, Jon Faddis, Robin Eubanks, Diane Schuur, Michael Brecker, Clark Terry, Stanley Clarke, Steve Turre, Tom Kennedy, Joey DeFrancesco, Al Vizutti, Christian McBride, Pat Martino, Gerald Veasley, Lew Soloff, Jimmy Bruno, Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr., Ben Vereen, Mel Torme, and Natalie Cole, and recorded alongside Doc Severinsen, James Moody, Ernie Watts, Stevie Wonder, and Lee Ritenour.

Marc has conducted countless clinics at colleges and universities including American University, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Villanova University, University of Southern California, Duquense, Cal State Long Beach, University of Delaware, Temple University, and in England, Chile, Tokyo, the Netherlands, South Korea, and at many conferences and festivals world-wide. He is an artist/clinician for Yamaha Drums, Sabian Cymbals, Regal Tip Drum Sticks, Remo Drum Heads, Latin Percussion, MONO Cases, Ear Molds, and writes for *Modern Drummer*, *PAS Journal*, *Planet Drum*, and *In-Concert* magazines.

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