

THE HIT LIST

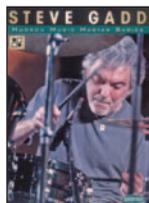
Drumming Videos That Set The Standard

In the twenty-five years since it was introduced, the drum video has transformed the way our instrument is taught, learned, and played. In this special edition of Critique, we highlight thirty-eight of the best. by Mike Haid

DRUMSET CONCEPTS

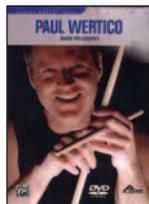
STEVE GADD *Up Close/In Session* (Alfred)

These videos, produced by Paul Siegel and Rob Wallis in the '80s, launched the entire drum instructional market and gave us our first glimpse at the iconic Gadd in his prime. The production quality now seems archaic, but the information will forever remain timeless, as Gadd performs and explains his classic grooves on Paul Simon's "50 Ways To Leave Your Lover" and "Late In The Evening."



STEVE GADD *Master Series* (Hudson)

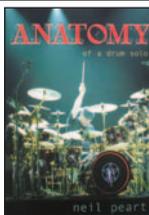
The maestro returns in 2008, with head Hudson honchos Siegel and Wallis again at the helm. Gadd comes full circle with a revealing master class that showcases the true greatness of this drumming giant. The high-quality DVD format allows for several outstanding bonus clips.



PAUL WERTICO *Drum Philosophy* (Alfred)

This exceptional reissue is one of the most valuable videos on the market for the advanced drummer. Seven-time Grammy winner Wertico articulately explains his organic approach to several dynamic, jazz-based pieces. Wertico's creative drumming offers a welcome alternative to today's typically dogmatic, technique-laden instructional.

SOLOING



NEIL PEART *Anatomy Of A Drum Solo* (Hudson)

The Professor dissects his 2004 live solo, which traces the history of drumming, from its African roots to jazz to modern-day applications in popular music. A revealing and intimate glimpse inside the musical mind of one of rock's most influential players.



CLASSIC DRUM SOLOS AND DRUM BATTLES, VOLS. 1 & 2 (Hudson)

Outstanding chronological collections of classic jazz drum solos (available both individually and as a set). These enduring pieces feature the cream of the crop of swinging drumset technicians, including Krupa, Rich, Bellson, Blakey, Morello, Elvin, and Cozy Cole.

GROOVE



JEFF PORCARO

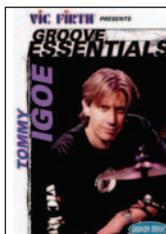
Instructional DVD For Drums (Hal Leonard)

Here the Grammy-winning studio legend gives us thirty-four minutes of heartfelt drumming, revealing the subtleties of his signature shuffles and secrets to playing in a group setting. In terms of musical grooves and masterful time, the late, great Jeff Porcaro is irreplaceable.

STEVE JORDAN *The Groove Is Here* (Rittor Music)

The title says it all. Another Grammy-winning groove machine, Jordan lays it down and goes deep in the pocket. When it comes to making it feel good, Jordan is money!

BASIC DRUMSET



TOMMY IGOE

Groove Essentials, Vols. 1 & 2.0 (Hudson)

These definitive drumset videos (sold separately) cover all playing levels and a myriad of popular styles. Igoe has the perfect educator's personality and conveys each genre in detail, with flair and conviction. These are the go-to DVDs for developing a strong drumming vocabulary in popular music styles.

FRANK BRIGGS *Mel Bay's Complete Modern Drum Set* (Mel Bay)

This timeless DVD offers the intermediate to advanced player the opportunity to develop masterful chops and applicable technique in almost every popular musical style. Briggs's soft-spoken approach to the user-friendly material makes for a relaxing and highly beneficial study.

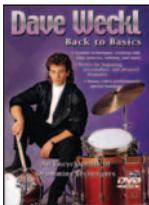
DRUM CORPS



JEFF QUEEN *Playing With Sticks* (Hudson)

Over three hours of world-class drum corps stick method and rudimental hand technique. Queen has more tricks than a Vegas magician and an arsenal of advanced rudiments beyond compare.

TECHNIQUE



DAVE WECKL

Back To Basics (Alfred)
Reissued in 2003, this groundbreaking 1988 DCI video set the standard for high-quality multi-camera-angle production. The meticulously planned-out DVD is one of the first to feature a drummer playing along with prerecorded tracks. Weckl's precise drumming, hand/foot technique, tuning tips, and groove and solo concepts raised the bar for modern drumset players and instructional video production alike.

STEVE SMITH

Drumset Technique/History Of The U.S. Beat (Hudson)

This innovative two-disc package was a technological tour de force for Hudson Music, as it incorporated camera-switching options, optional commentary features, and massive bonus footage for a total run time of four and a half hours. On disc one, Smith covers an encyclopedia's worth of kit techniques, styles, and concepts. Disc two features a comprehensive discussion of the evolution of the drumset in American music, and Steve plays seven songs with his band Vital Information.

BILLY WARD *Big Time* (Hal Leonard)

Ward's quirky, creative drumming approach is personified in this entertaining and highly educational production. Straying from the standard format, Ward grabs your attention cleverly and pulls you in with his organic, musical concepts, deep philosophy, and infectious sense of humor.



JOJO MAYER

Secret Weapons For The Modern Drummer (Hudson)

The most comprehensive and well-produced instructional DVD on hand technique ever filmed. Mayer's sticking mastery combined with artistic, cutting-edge video production technology makes this a hands-down classic for all drummers.

TODD SUCHERMAN

Methods & Mechanics (Altitude Digital)

On this video, which is another artsy alternative to the standard instructional format, Styx timekeeper Sucherman focuses on musical playing, stick technique, and the proper attitude for the working drummer. The creative indoor/outdoor production is exceptional, and Sucherman's inviting personality and sense of humor make him a charismatic teacher.



BENNY GREB

The Language Of Drumming (Hudson)

This recent addition to Hudson's extensive catalog may be the most unusual and entertaining instructional out there. Greb clearly but lightheartedly spells out an innovative, systematic drumming "language" (with color poster and fifty-one-page e-book). The advances in cinematic creativity, outdoor camera work, and audio quality are unmistakable.

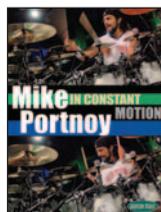
PROGRESSIVE



GAVIN HARRISON

Rhythmic Visions/ Rhythmic Horizons (Hudson)

In recent years Harrison, with his pinpoint control and stunning chops, has become a leading authority on progressive drumming. These well-produced DVDs (sold separately) offer detailed instruction on the art of prog.



MIKE PORTNOY

In Constant Motion (Hudson)

The hardest-working man in progressive metal goes all out on this three-disc set, covering three Dream Theater CDs and several side projects, with tons of bonus material. It's a seven-hour drumming extravaganza that includes PDF file transcriptions, camera-switching options, and a full-color poster.

THE DRUM INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEO How It All Began

When Drummers Collective proprietors Paul Siegel and Rob Wallis began videotaping master classes of high-profile drummers at their music school in New York City back in 1982, they had no idea that this bold move into the modern age of VHS recording would spiral into an internationally successful multimedia business and establish the duo as the preeminent video gurus of the drumming industry. Wallis recalls, "We put a classified ad in the back of *Modern Drummer* to sell the first videos, which were \$79.95. A few days after the magazine came out, several checks arrived in the mail. At that point, we thought this could actually be the start of a business."

After stalking session sensation Steve Gadd for several weeks in 1983, Siegel and Wallis were able to get the drummer into the studio to film the *Up Close* video, which helped launch their DCI Video business. "As we began to roll the cameras," Siegel recalls, "Steve said to Rob, 'Come and sit down next to me—I want this to be a conversation between us.'" This is how the initial interview format began for Siegel and Wallis, who now head the highly successful Hudson Music and continue to lead the way with innovative DVD productions and online multimedia drum education.

PERFORMANCE



MODERN DRUMMER FESTIVAL 2008

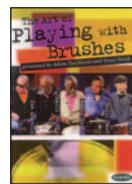
(Hudson)

Hudson and *Modern Drummer* have teamed up for a number of spectacular MD Fest videos. This recent DVD set is the most varied and comprehensive, with artist-to-artist interviews, a twenty-eight-page printable e-book, and nearly twelve hours of footage from Simon Phillips, Bill Stewart, Ndugu Chancelor, Gavin Harrison, Will Calhoun, Dafnis Prieto, Todd Sucherman, Billy Ward, Carmine Appice, Thomas Pridgen, and Derek Roddy.

BUDDY RICH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP CONCERTS

(Alfred)
If you haven't seen this video, you've been living under a rock. Drum legends Gadd, Weckl, and Colaiuta share the stage for the ultimate percussive showdown. Also featured are Louie Bellson, Gregg Bissonette, and Dennis Chambers, plus clips of the master, Buddy Rich.

BRUSHES



THE ART OF PLAYING BRUSHES

(Hudson)

Several brush innovators—Joe Morello, Charli Persip, Eddie Locke, Billy Hart, and Ben Riley—share their technique and insights with drummers Steve Smith and Adam Nussbaum on this three-disc set. Bonus footage from brush genius Ed Thigpen and the late Louie Bellson, among others, and a play-along CD help make this an authority on brush instruction.

ED THIGPEN *The Essence Of Brushes* (Alfred)

The distinguished Thigpen shares an hour of peerless brushwork. Ed's articulate descriptions of his virtuosic technique, along with trio performances utilizing various tempos and stylistic forms, make this an essential DVD for mastering the fine art of brush playing.

CLAYTON CAMERON *Brushworks* (Carl Fischer)

Cameron's deft use of brushes set the world on fire during the resurgence of crooner Tony Bennett's career in the early '90s, and the drummer's 1992 instructional video, *The Living Art Of Brushes*, was the first of its kind to be dedicated entirely to brush playing. The more recent book/CD/DVD project *Brushworks* digs even deeper into many sweep/tap techniques and takes a close look at Cameron's signature brush rudiments.

DOUBLE BASS



JOE FRANCO

Double Bass Drumming (Alfred)

This is the original double bass master class from one of rock's premier educators on the topic. The 1984 classic stands the test of time.

JEFF BOWDERS

Double Bass Drumming Workshop (Hal Leonard)

Musicians Institute instructor Bowders takes double bass drumming to the next level with this outstanding instructional. Bowders' world-class DVD covers every aspect of double bass technique development, from basic to advanced.

FOUR-WAY INDEPENDENCE



MARCO MINNEMANN

Extreme Drumming
(Alfred)

The prince of four-way coordination, Minnemann enters the instructional video market with this mind-blowing collection of solos, musical performances, and examples from his original catalog and from his award-winning book, *Extreme Interdependence*.

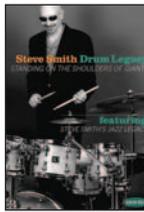
THOMAS LANG

Creative Coordination & Advanced Foot Technique
(Hudson)



If more is more, then this explosive three-disc set covering seven hours of foot method and Lang's Contemporary Coordination Matrix will keep your head spinning for years to come. Complete with a color poster and tons of special features and bonus material.

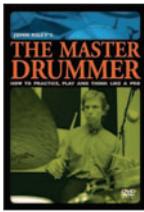
JAZZ



STEVE SMITH DRUM LEGACY

Standing On The Shoulders Of Giants (Hudson)

Jazz drumming experts Steve Smith and John Riley explore the stylistic characteristics of legends Max Roach, Art Blakey, Philly Joe Jones, Tony Williams, Elvin Jones, Joe Dukes, and Buddy Rich, with performances from the 2006 MD Festival by Smith and his Jazz Legacy group.



JOHN RILEY

The Master Drummer (Alfred)

This may be the only DVD you'll ever need to learn the concepts of jazz drumming. Riley is an articulate speaker and instructor, clearly defining the subjects of technique, groove, creativity, and musicianship from the jazz perspective.

NEW ORLEANS



NEW ORLEANS DRUMMING

(Alfred)

Straight from the Crescent City, Earl Palmer, Johnny Vidacovich, Herlin Riley, and Herman Ernest unveil the spicy rhythms of the Big Easy. Overlook the production quality and savor the priceless info and detailed examples of the authentic flavor of New Orleans drumming.



STANTON MOORE

Take It To The Street!
Traditional/Modern

(Carl Fischer)

The modern-day New Orleans drumming master goes deep inside the traditions and the current interpretations of his native city's drumming. Each DVD (sold separately) demystifies the voodoo surrounding this deceptively difficult drumming style.

LATIN



GIOVANNI HIDALGO/HORACIO HERNANDEZ

Traveling Through Time (Alfred)

The musical conversations on this vid are so deep that it would take six more discs to dissect what makes the performances so monumental. Hernandez, the Latin drumset virtuoso, and Hidalgo, the Latin percussion genius, do their best to explain their artistry. But it's better to just enjoy the magic that these legends create on this entertaining and rhythmically dense video.

PHIL MATURANO

Afro Cuban Drumming For The Drumset (Hudson)

Maturano is an authority on the subject of Afro-Cuban drumming. Here he offers an articulate discussion of applying compound Latin percussion rhythms to the drumset, and his explanation of clave and African 6/8 illuminates these often challenging rhythms.

Don't see your favorite drum video here? Go to myspace.com/moderndrummermagazine and tell us about it.



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