



CLASSROOM BUCKET DRUMMING

Join Professor Anthony Stevens for a guided Bucket Drumming class with activities that teach the history, form, and techniques in the art of Bucket Drumming.





TEACHER GUIDE

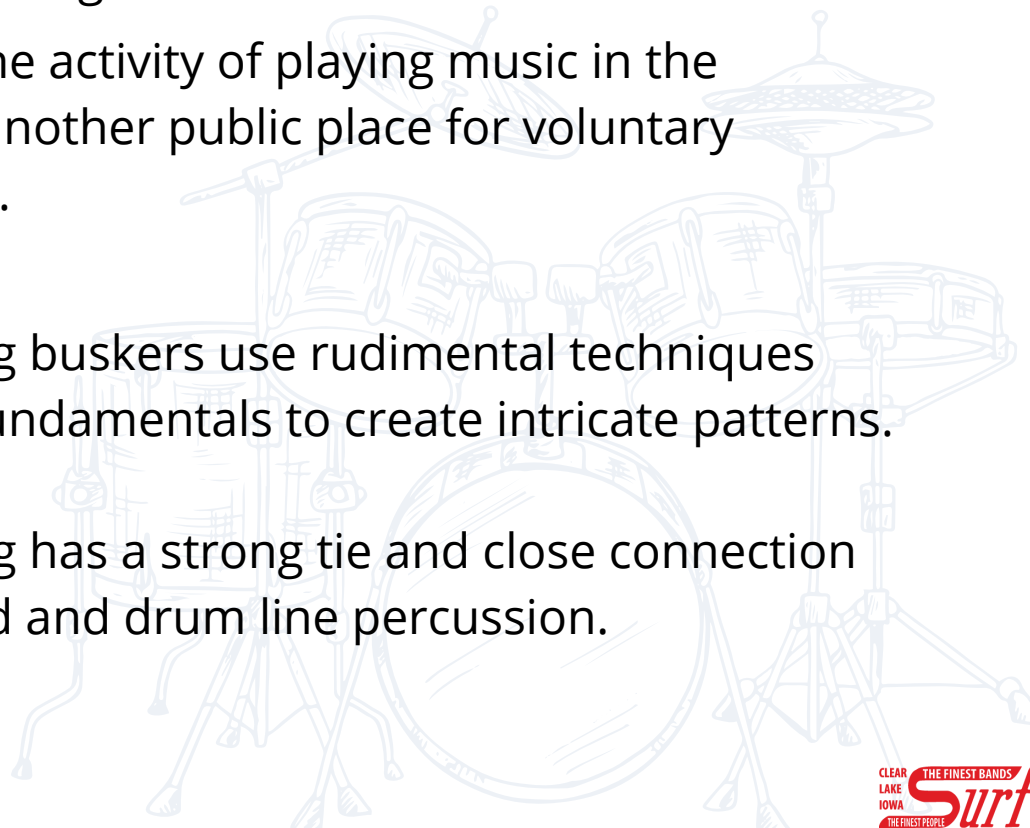
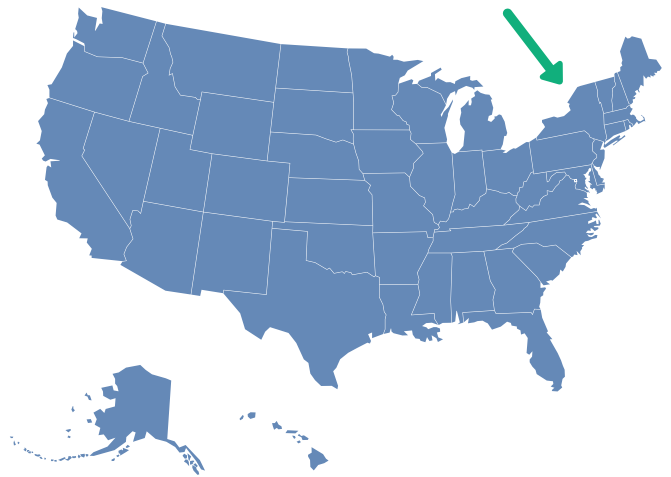
This guide contains materials to aid educators in teaching the art of Bucket Drumming. Use this guide alongside the Surf Ballroom's Educational Video Series: Classroom Bucket Drumming.

Free supply rental & delivery are available to any school within a 50-mile radius of the Surf Ballroom.

BUCKET DRUMMING HISTORY

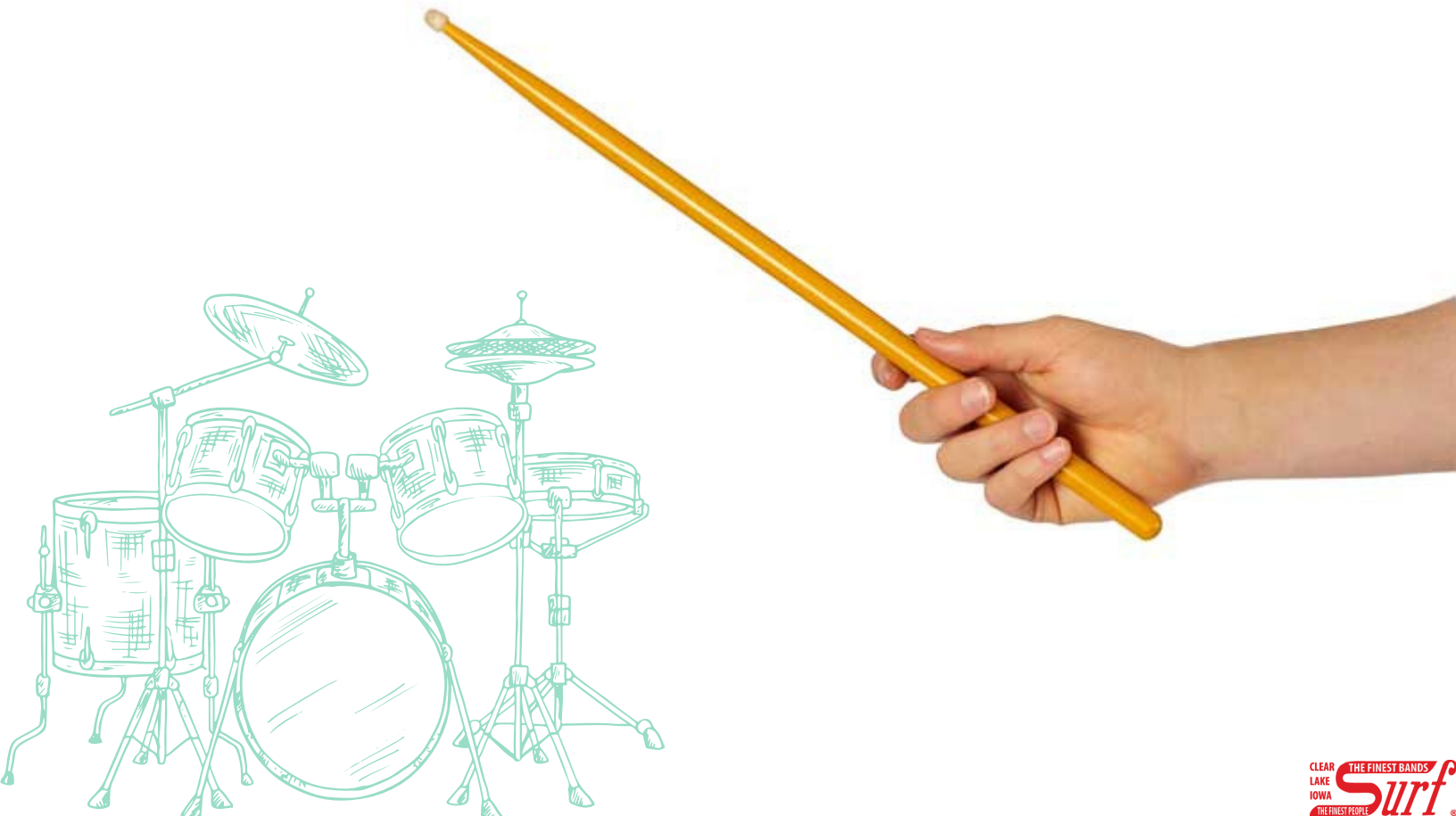
Bucket drumming, also called street drumming, is a style of music which involves drumming on plastic buckets and other objects to create rhythmic grooves. The most common object used by bucket drummers are five-gallon plastic buckets, but other objects can be used, including glass bottles, pots, and pans.

- Bucket drumming originated in New York City in the 1980's.
- Bucket drumming has a rich tradition with busking.
 - *Busking*: the activity of playing music in the street or another public place for voluntary donations.
- Bucket drumming buskers use rudimental techniques and drumming fundamentals to create intricate patterns.
- Bucket drumming has a strong tie and close connection to marching band and drum line percussion.



HOW TO HOLD DRUM STICKS

- Grab the stick like you are shaking hands.
- Stick should be in-between thumb and index finger, on opposite sides of the stick.
 - The rest of the fingers should be loosely gripping around the stick.
- Hold the stick with space between thumb and index finger, so that your hand isn't rigid. In other words, **don't grip the stick too tight!**
- Index finger should be pointing the same direction as your palm.



FORM & FUNCTION

STICKS

Fulcrum: Balance point of the stick.

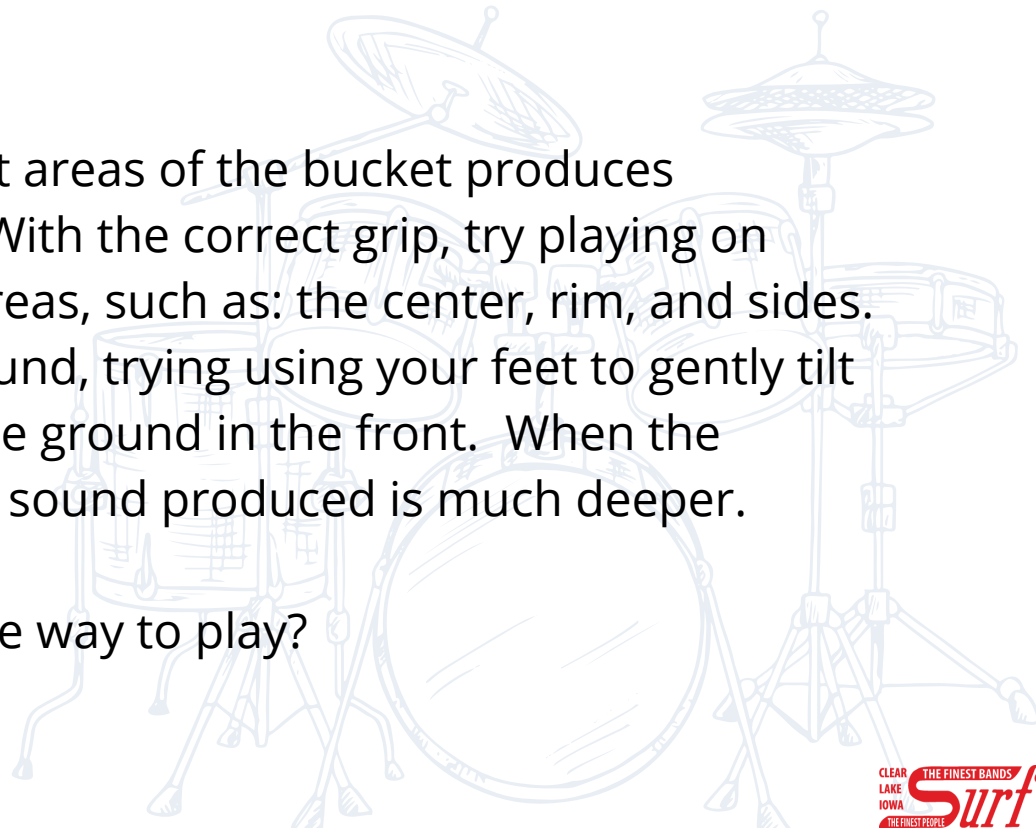
Practice: Find the fulcrum, or balance point, of the stick. This is usually about one third up from the bottom. When you hold the stick at the fulcrum, or balance point, the stick will gently bounce when released. For best results, place your index finger on the fulcrum when gripping the stick. This technique comes in handy when practicing rudiments, such as the double stroke roll.

Note: Your hand position will changed based on what area of the drum you are playing, etc.

BUCKETS

Playing on different areas of the bucket produces different sounds. With the correct grip, try playing on different surface areas, such as: the center, rim, and sides. For a deep bass sound, trying using your feet to gently tilt the bucket off of the ground in the front. When the bucket is lifted, the sound produced is much deeper.

What's your favorite way to play?



RUDIMENTS

RIGHT HAND LEAD –START W/RIGHT HAND

LEFT HAND LEAD –START W/LEFT HAND

SINGLE STROKE ROLL

R-L-R-L-R-L-R-L

L-R-L-R-L-R-L-R



Start this pattern slow and gradually speed up. Add accents to increase complexity.

DOUBLE STROKE ROLL

R-R-L-L-R-R-L-L

L-L-R-R-L-L-R-R

Try the bounce technique: Find the fulcrum and let the stick bounce on the second beat instead of lifting the stick with your wrist both times.

PARADIDDLE

R-L-R-R L-R-L-L

L-R-L-L R-L-R-R

Try breaking the paradiddle pattern up on different areas of the bucket, as demonstrated by Professor Stevens.

CADENCES

Cadence: signature rhythms produced by a sequence of beat patterns.

In bucket drumming, a cadence consists of a pattern of different rudiments, such as: the single stroke roll, the double stroke roll, and paradiddles. There are many other rudiments that drummers can use to make their cadences, but these give you a great foundation to get started!

Accents: an emphasis on a particular beat.

Accents are used to break up the different rhythmic patterns to create a more interesting sound.

Note: This simple key will help you follow along with Professor Stevens and learn his cadences.

R- Right Hand

L- Left Hand

c- Center of Bucket

r- Rim of Bucket

s- Side of Bucket



If you see '**Rc**' for example, that means use your right hand to strike the center of the bucket!

LET'S PLAY!

Cadence #1

Rc Lc Rc Lc Rr Lc Rr Lc Rc Lc Rc Lc Rc Lc Rr Lr
Rr Lc Rc Lr Rr Lc Rc Lc Rc Lc Rc Lc Rr Lc Rr Lc
Rc Lc Rc Lc Rc Lr Rr Lc Rc Lr Rr Lc Rc

Cadence #2

Rc Lc Rc Lc Rr Lc Rr Lc Rc Lc Rc Lc Rc Lc Rr Lr
Rr Lc Rc Lc Rr Lr Rc Lc Rc Lc Rc Lc Rc Lr Rc Lr
Rc Lc Rc Lc Rc Lc Rr Lr Rc Lc Rr Lr Rc Lc Rs Rs
Lc Rs Rs Lc Rs Rs Lc Rs Rs Lc Rs Rs Lc Rs Rs Lc
Rs Rs Lc Rc Lc Rc

Cadence #3

Create your own cadence! Use the rudiments you learned to create your own signature rhythm. Add accents to emphasize different beats, and play on different areas of the drum to add different sounds and texture to your piece! Most importantly, HAVE FUN!

Share your cadence with us:
education@surfballroom.com

RESOURCES

All rudiments should be learned/played with right hand lead and also with left hand lead and at various speeds/tempo. Learn them at a slow tempo then try to increase your tempo over time.

Want to learn more?

- *Percussive Arts Society Website:*
<https://www.pas.org/resources/rudiments>
- *Larry Wright at Buddy Rich Memorial 1991:*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ym4Hhsbm0ek&feature=emb_title
- *Larry Wright NYC Street Bucket Drummer 1990:*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSFa8STqSWk&feature=emb_title



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**Lessons and activities to teach the art of drumming in
your classroom**

