



POP MUSIC DRUMMING

a workbook for the professional drum set player

by Chris Bates

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Audio Samples

Many of the written examples in the book are accompanied by an audio sample. These are indicated with a track number enclosed within a circle that appears next to the written example. These audio samples can be downloaded at www.amalgampublishing.net/pop-music-drumming, and will give the reader a chance to hear how the example should sound. Listen to the sample while reading the written music, then try to play along, matching it as closely as possible.

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Introduction

What is pop music? Pop music is the kind of music that we listen to on a daily basis by the listener's request. If there's a song that people like, they'll want to listen to it as many times as they please. When we want to hear songs on the radio, we request it. When we want to buy a song or songs, we purchase them online. Millions of people have bought and listened to many different genres of music which gave those genres and the music artists critical praise and many awards such as Billboard Music Awards, Grammy Awards, and Video Music Awards. The genres covered in this book include rock, alternative rock, pop, R&B, funk, soul, hip-hop, and country. All of these genres are considered pop music because their music video, radio, and TV airplay gives them international exposure. One of the most important people in pop music is the drummer. The drummer's job is to be the driving force by providing grooves to make the song stand out. Whether a pop song tells a story or just gets people to dance, the drummer is the one who provides the feel to make pop songs popular to music audiences. Musicians today must understand the stylistic qualities of the music they play, no matter what genre. Whether it's rock, funk, R&B, country, or blues, all genres are played in their own way. The drummer plays in order to complement and appreciate the qualities of each genre by providing the rhythms to make the music speak.

The contents of this book are designed to help the drum set player grasp the means of playing grooves for many pop music genres and to prepare them to perform in front of a wide variety of audiences. This book contains a series of grooves and fills for different musical styles. These grooves give the sense of how to play and solo over many styles of music. Both the rhythms and the tempo markings define certain genres. If the player practices the material in this book with a metronome, the player will be more likely to develop a consistent tempo and better understand how the grooves are played.

This book has transcriptions with grooves that have come from popular drummers and the music that they play. It's common for drum set players to enhance their musical ability by playing along to some of their favorite songs. That way, they can handle playing many kinds of music and can understand how their part fits with the parts of other musicians. When the student listens to recordings, he or she can hear the drums in the songs and can incorporate that into his or her own music.

It is the author's sincere hope that this book will be a tool for all drummers, music students, and educators to build a drum set technique and to use these rhythms and all the other content to perform, play, and teach for a large number of different musical groups. Enjoy!

Tips for Practicing

1. Look at the rhythm and study it very carefully. You can also sing the rhythm, or count it out loud or in your mind.
2. Learn and perfect the written examples, then develop variations of your own.
3. Separate the hands and feet while playing the rhythms, then combine everything.
4. Practice each rhythm slowly and gradually increase tempo.
5. Always work the rhythm up to the required tempo marking.
6. For examples with both open and closed hi-hats, try to play the rhythms with the hi-hats closed. Don't play the open hi-hats if you are not comfortable with playing them yet. When you are comfortable, then you can play the rhythms as written.
7. Play the entire rhythm at the required tempo marking and loop it so that you can find and carry the groove.

Some rhythms and fills may be a bit more difficult than others. If you encounter a rhythm that you can't seem to play, refer back to these practice tips. Remember, practicing consistently with patience will bring back positive results.

Using A Metronome

A metronome should be used to keep tempo. This isn't just for drummers, it's for all musicians. An effective way to use it is to practice playing grooves with a metronome while wearing headphones. Practice with a lot of different tempos on your metronome so that you can get a feel for playing in slow, medium, and fast tempos. All music requires a steady beat, whether the rhythms playing over it are straightforward or syncopated. Other drummers refer to the phrase "keep it in the pocket." The drummer is the time keeper and should stay in tempo at all times.

Fills

A fill is a short transition over the drum set before returning to the groove. Fills can be improvised to add color to music and make the song interesting or to prepare you to enter the next phrase of a song or solo.

To learn more about fills and when to play them, watch other drummers. Listen to the way that they play fills and when they play them. You will notice that the quality of the fill is determined in part by finding the right time to execute the fill to decorate the song. Take time to watch and listen to other drummers and learn from what they are doing.

Nomenclature

Snare Drum	Ghost Note	Rim Shot (softer)	Rim Shot (louder)	Cross Stick	High Tom	Low Tom	Bass Drum	Cowbell

Hi-Hat (w/foot)	Hi-Hat (w/stick) closed	Hi-Hat (w/stick) open	Ride Cymbal	Ride Bell	Crash Cymbal (Left)	Crash Cymbal (Right)	China Cymbal	

Rock Drumming

What better way to begin learning pop music grooves than the genre whose grooves are responsible for releasing more hit records than any other genre in music today. Back in the early 1950s, rock n' roll was a driving force for young American youth and a complete nightmare for their parents. Dances and parties were full of energy and feeling based on the music that was played, and these grooves were the backbone of the era. Sixty years since then, rock is still being played and the drummers of rock are keeping the energy going.

Begin by playing these 8th note rock rhythms.

♩ = 80 - 140

Note: All rock rhythms will have different bass drum patterns, but the snare drum hits will always be on counts 2 and 4.

Track 1

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

Track 2

1 & 2 3 & 4

1 & 2 3 4

Track 3

1 2 3 4 &

1 2 & 3 & 4 &

Track 4

1 2 & 4

1 2 & 3 & 4

Note: You may also attempt to play all these rock grooves on the ride cymbal instead of using the hi-hat.

Now you can take the same grooves and translate them into 16th note patterns. The hi-hat will be played with the right hand. That pattern alone can be used for ballads or songs that require a slow tempo. Try to play these grooves with your hi-hat closed as written. You can also play these with a ride cymbal.

♩ = 60 - 100

<p>Track 5</p>	
<p>Track 6</p>	
<p>Track 7</p>	
<p>Track 8</p>	

Now do the same rhythms using alternate stickings at faster tempos.

♩ = 90 - 130

<p>Track 9</p>	
<p>Track 10</p>	
<p>Track 11</p>	
<p>Track 12</p>	

Rock Transcriptions

The following transcriptions are from some of the biggest hit songs of rock music. These songs, and many others, helped popularize rock in some of the most influential times in music such as the British Invasion of the 60s, Woodstock '69, and the birth of MTV in 1981. Newer generations were influenced by the songs shown here and many other popular songs in the rock music genre.

Song: **Rosanna**

Artist: **Toto** Year of Release: **1982**
Album: **IV** Drummer: **Jeff Porcaro**

♩ = 83

Track 18

Musical notation for the song Rosanna. It features a 4/4 time signature and a tempo of 83 beats per minute. The notation is written on a grand staff with two staves. The upper staff contains a complex drum pattern with triplets and accents, while the lower staff shows a bass line with triplets and accents. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Song: **Rhythm of Love**

Artist: **Yes** Year of Release: **1987**
Album: **Big Generator** Drummer: **Alan White**

♩ = 124

Musical notation for the song Rhythm of Love. It features a 4/4 time signature and a tempo of 124 beats per minute. The notation is written on a grand staff with two staves. The upper staff contains a drum pattern with accents, while the lower staff shows a bass line with accents. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Song: **Fire Escape**

Artist: **Fastball** Year of Release: **1998**
Album: **All the Pain Money Can Buy** Drummer: **Joe Shuffield**

♩ = 126

Track 19

Musical notation for the song Fire Escape. It features a 4/4 time signature and a tempo of 126 beats per minute. The notation is written on a grand staff with two staves. The upper staff contains a drum pattern with accents, while the lower staff shows a bass line with accents. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Song: **Twist and Shout**

Artist: **The Beatles** Year of Release: **1963**
Album: **Please Please Me** Drummer: **Ringo Starr**

♩ = 124

Track 20

Musical notation for 'Twist and Shout' in 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The top staff features a series of eighth notes with accents and beams, with 'x' marks above them indicating specific rhythmic patterns. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes and eighth notes.

Song: **Weight of the World**

Artist: **Chantal Kreviazuk** Year of Release: **2002**
Album: **What If It All Means Something** Drummer: **Shawn Pelton**

♩ = 126

Musical notation for 'Weight of the World' in 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The top staff features eighth notes with accents and beams, and some notes with circles above them. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes and eighth notes.

Song: **Waiting on the World to Change**

Artist: **John Mayer** Year of Release: **2006**
Album: **Continuum** Drummer: **Steve Jordan**

♩ = 90

Track 21

Musical notation for 'Waiting on the World to Change' in 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The top staff features eighth notes with accents and beams, and some notes with '3' above them indicating triplets. The bottom staff shows a bass line with eighth notes and triplets, with '3' below some groups.

Song: **I Love Rock N' Roll**

Artist: **Joan Jett & The Blackhearts** Year of Release: **1981**
Album: **I Love Rock N' Roll** Drummer: **Lee Crystal**

♩ = 98

Musical notation for 'I Love Rock N' Roll' in 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The top staff features eighth notes with accents and beams, and some notes with upward-pointing arrows above them. The bottom staff shows a bass line with quarter notes and eighth notes.

Song: **Rock N' Roll Band**

Artist: **Boston** Year of Release: **1976**
Album: **Boston** Drummer: **Jim Masdea**

♩ = 136

Track 22

Musical notation for 'Rock N' Roll Band' in 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of two staves each. The top staff is for guitar, featuring a series of eighth-note chords with 'x' marks above them, indicating muted notes. The bottom staff is for drums, showing a consistent pattern of eighth notes and rests. The notation includes various musical symbols such as accents (>), slurs, and dynamic markings. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Song: **Hanging by a Moment**

Artist: **Lifhouse** Year of Release: **2000**
Album: **No Name Face** Drummer: **Jon Palmer**

♩ = 126

Musical notation for 'Hanging by a Moment' in 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of two staves each. The top staff is for guitar, featuring a series of eighth-note chords with 'x' marks above them, indicating muted notes. The bottom staff is for drums, showing a consistent pattern of eighth notes and rests. The notation includes various musical symbols such as accents (>) and dynamic markings. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Song: **I'll Be There for You**

Artist: **The Rembrandts** Year of Release: **1995**
Album: **Friends (Music from the TV Series)** Drummer: **Pat Mastelotto**

♩ = 196

Track 23

Musical notation for 'I'll Be There for You' in 4/4 time. The score consists of two systems of two staves each. The top staff is for guitar, featuring a series of eighth-note chords with 'x' marks above them, indicating muted notes. The bottom staff is for drums, showing a consistent pattern of eighth notes and rests. The notation includes various musical symbols such as accents (>) and dynamic markings. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Song: **Breathe**

Artist: **Ryan Star** Year of Release: **2010**
Album: **11:59** Drummer: **Matt Chamberlain**

♩ = 86

Track 24

Musical notation for the song 'Breathe' in 4/4 time. The tempo is 86 beats per minute. The notation features a series of eighth notes on the upper staff, with 'x' marks above them indicating a specific rhythmic pattern. The lower staff shows a bass line with quarter notes and eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Song: **Mississippi Queen**

Artist: **Mountain** Year of Release: **1970**
Album: **Climbing!** Drummer: **Corky Laing**

♩ = 140

Musical notation for the song 'Mississippi Queen' in 4/4 time. The tempo is 140 beats per minute. The notation shows a series of eighth notes on the upper staff, with 'x' marks above them. The lower staff features a bass line with quarter notes and eighth notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Song: **I Want to Know**

Artist: **Living Colour** Year of Release: **1988**
Album: **Vivid** Drummer: **Will Calhoun**

♩ = 130

Musical notation for the song 'I Want to Know' in 4/4 time. The tempo is 130 beats per minute. The notation consists of eighth notes on the upper staff, with 'x' marks above them. The lower staff shows a bass line with quarter notes and eighth notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Song: **Come Together**

Artist: **The Beatles** Year of Release: **1969**
Album: **1** Drummer: **Ringo Starr**

♩ = 82

Track 25

Musical notation for the song 'Come Together' in 4/4 time. The tempo is 82 beats per minute. The notation features a series of eighth notes on the upper staff, with 'x' marks above them. The lower staff shows a bass line with quarter notes and eighth notes. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Song: **Wagon Wheel Watusi**

Artist: **Elmer Bernstein**

Year of Release: **2010**

Album: **Music from the Motion Picture: Baby the Rain Must Fall**

Drummer: **Unknown**

♩ = 150

Musical notation for the song 'Wagon Wheel Watusi'. It features a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation consists of a single staff with a treble clef. The melody is composed of eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. There are four measures shown, each ending with a repeat sign. The notes are: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5, C6, D6, E6, F#6, G6, A6, B6, C7, D7, E7, F#7, G7, A7, B7, C8, D8, E8, F#8, G8, A8, B8, C9, D9, E9, F#9, G9, A9, B9, C10, D10, E10, F#10, G10, A10, B10, C11, D11, E11, F#11, G11, A11, B11, C12, D12, E12, F#12, G12, A12, B12, C13, D13, E13, F#13, G13, A13, B13, C14, D14, E14, F#14, G14, A14, B14, C15, D15, E15, F#15, G15, A15, B15, C16, D16, E16, F#16, G16, A16, B16, C17, D17, E17, F#17, G17, A17, B17, C18, D18, E18, F#18, G18, A18, B18, C19, D19, E19, F#19, G19, A19, B19, C20, D20, E20, F#20, G20, A20, B20, C21, D21, E21, F#21, G21, A21, B21, C22, D22, E22, F#22, G22, A22, B22, C23, D23, E23, F#23, G23, A23, B23, C24, D24, E24, F#24, G24, A24, B24, C25, D25, E25, F#25, G25, A25, B25, C26, D26, E26, F#26, G26, A26, B26, C27, D27, E27, F#27, G27, A27, B27, C28, D28, E28, F#28, G28, A28, B28, C29, D29, E29, F#29, G29, A29, B29, C30, D30, E30, F#30, G30, A30, B30, C31, D31, E31, F#31, G31, A31, B31, C32, D32, E32, F#32, G32, A32, B32, C33, D33, E33, F#33, G33, A33, B33, C34, D34, E34, F#34, G34, A34, B34, C35, D35, E35, F#35, G35, A35, B35, C36, D36, E36, F#36, G36, A36, B36, C37, D37, E37, F#37, G37, A37, B37, C38, D38, E38, F#38, G38, A38, B38, C39, D39, E39, F#39, G39, A39, B39, C40, D40, E40, F#40, G40, A40, B40, C41, D41, E41, F#41, G41, A41, B41, C42, D42, E42, F#42, G42, A42, B42, C43, D43, E43, F#43, G43, A43, B43, C44, D44, E44, F#44, G44, A44, B44, C45, D45, E45, F#45, G45, A45, B45, C46, D46, E46, F#46, G46, A46, B46, C47, D47, E47, F#47, G47, A47, B47, C48, D48, E48, F#48, G48, A48, B48, C49, D49, E49, F#49, G49, A49, B49, C50, D50, E50, F#50, G50, A50, B50, C51, D51, E51, F#51, G51, A51, B51, C52, D52, E52, F#52, G52, A52, B52, C53, D53, E53, F#53, G53, A53, B53, C54, D54, E54, F#54, G54, A54, B54, C55, D55, E55, F#55, G55, A55, B55, C56, D56, E56, F#56, G56, A56, B56, C57, D57, E57, F#57, G57, A57, B57, C58, D58, E58, F#58, G58, A58, B58, C59, D59, E59, F#59, G59, A59, B59, C60, D60, E60, F#60, G60, A60, B60, C61, D61, E61, F#61, G61, A61, B61, C62, D62, E62, F#62, G62, A62, B62, C63, D63, E63, F#63, G63, A63, B63, C64, D64, E64, F#64, G64, A64, B64, C65, D65, E65, F#65, G65, A65, B65, C66, D66, E66, F#66, G66, A66, B66, C67, D67, E67, F#67, G67, A67, B67, C68, D68, E68, F#68, G68, A68, B68, C69, D69, E69, F#69, G69, A69, B69, C70, D70, E70, F#70, G70, A70, B70, C71, D71, E71, F#71, G71, A71, B71, C72, D72, E72, F#72, G72, A72, B72, C73, D73, E73, F#73, G73, A73, B73, C74, D74, E74, F#74, G74, A74, B74, C75, D75, E75, F#75, G75, A75, B75, C76, D76, E76, F#76, G76, A76, B76, C77, D77, E77, F#77, G77, A77, B77, C78, D78, E78, F#78, G78, A78, B78, C79, D79, E79, F#79, G79, A79, B79, C80, D80, E80, F#80, G80, A80, B80, C81, D81, E81, F#81, G81, A81, B81, C82, D82, E82, F#82, G82, A82, B82, C83, D83, E83, F#83, G83, A83, B83, C84, D84, E84, F#84, G84, A84, B84, C85, D85, E85, F#85, G85, A85, B85, C86, D86, E86, F#86, G86, A86, B86, C87, D87, E87, F#87, G87, A87, B87, C88, D88, E88, F#88, G88, A88, B88, C89, D89, E89, F#89, G89, A89, B89, C90, D90, E90, F#90, G90, A90, B90, C91, D91, E91, F#91, G91, A91, B91, C92, D92, E92, F#92, G92, A92, B92, C93, D93, E93, F#93, G93, A93, B93, C94, D94, E94, F#94, G94, A94, B94, C95, D95, E95, F#95, G95, A95, B95, C96, D96, E96, F#96, G96, A96, B96, C97, D97, E97, F#97, G97, A97, B97, C98, D98, E98, F#98, G98, A98, B98, C99, D99, E99, F#99, G99, A99, B99, C100, D100, E100, F#100, G100, A100, B100, C101, D101, E101, F#101, G101, A101, B101, C102, D102, E102, F#102, G102, A102, B102, C103, D103, E103, F#103, G103, A103, B103, C104, D104, E104, F#104, G104, A104, B104, C105, D105, E105, F#105, G105, A105, B105, C106, D106, E106, F#106, G106, A106, B106, C107, D107, E107, F#107, G107, A107, B107, C108, D108, E108, F#108, G108, A108, B108, C109, D109, E109, F#109, G109, A109, B109, C110, D110, E110, F#110, G110, A110, B110, C111, D111, E111, F#111, G111, A111, B111, C112, D112, E112, F#112, G112, A112, B112, C113, D113, E113, F#113, 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D346, E346, F#346, G346, A346, B346, C347, D347, E347, F#347, G347, A347, B347, C348, D348, E348, F#348, G348, A348, B348, C349, D349, E349, F#349, G349, A349, B349, C350, D350, E350, F#350, G350, A350, B350, C351, D351, E351, F#351, G351, A351, B351, C352, D352, E352, F#352, G352, A352, B352, C353, D353, E353, F#353, G353, A353, B353, C354, D354, E354, F#354, G354, A354, B354, C355, D355, E355, F#355, G355, A355, B355, C356, D356, E356, F#356, G356, A356, B356, C357, D357, E357, F

Song: **Devil with the Blue Dress / Good Golly Miss Molly**

Artist: **Mitch Ryder & The Detroit Wheels**

Year of Release: **1966**

Album: **Breakout...!!!**

Drummer: **Johnny Badanjek**

♩ = 160

Musical notation for the song "Devil with the Blue Dress / Good Golly Miss Molly". It features a 4/4 time signature and a tempo of 160 beats per minute. The notation includes a series of eighth notes with accents and a consistent bass line.

Song: **Alone**

Artist: **Heart**

Year of Release: **1987**

Album: **Bad Animals**

Drummer: **Denny Carmassi**

♩ = 86

Musical notation for the song "Alone". It features a 4/4 time signature and a tempo of 86 beats per minute. The notation includes a series of eighth notes with accents and a consistent bass line.

Song: **Why Can't I?**

Artist: **Liz Phair**

Year of Release: **2003**

Album: **Liz Phair**

Drummer: **Victor Indrizzo**

♩ = 82

Musical notation for the song "Why Can't I?". It features a 4/4 time signature and a tempo of 82 beats per minute. The notation includes a series of eighth notes with accents and a consistent bass line, with some triplets indicated by a '3' under the notes.

Song: **Tiny Dancer**

Artist: **Elton John**

Year of Release: **1971**

Album: **Madman Across the Water**

Drummer: **Nigel Olsson**

♩ = 74

Musical notation for the song "Tiny Dancer". It features a 4/4 time signature and a tempo of 74 beats per minute. The notation includes a series of eighth notes with accents and a consistent bass line.

Song: **Addicted to Love**

Artist: **Robert Palmer**

Year of Release: **1985**

Album: **Riptide**

Drummer: **Tony Thompson**

♩ = 112

Musical notation for the song 'Addicted to Love' in 4/4 time. The tempo is 112 beats per minute. The notation shows a drum part with a consistent pattern of eighth notes and rests, featuring accents and a snare drum.

Song: **Africa**

Artist: **Toto**

Year of Release: **1982**

Album: **IV**

Drummer: **Jeff Porcaro**

♩ = 96

Musical notation for the song 'Africa' in 4/4 time. The tempo is 96 beats per minute. The notation shows a drum part with a consistent pattern of eighth notes and rests, featuring accents and a snare drum.

Song: **Meant to Live**

Artist: **Switchfoot**

Year of Release: **2003**

Album: **The Beautiful Letdown**

Drummer: **Chad Butler**

♩ = 78

Musical notation for the song 'Meant to Live' in 4/4 time. The tempo is 78 beats per minute. The notation shows a drum part with a consistent pattern of eighth notes and rests, featuring accents and a snare drum.

Song: **American Dream**

Artist: **Vixen**

Year of Release: **1988**

Album: **Vixen**

Drummer: **Roxy Petrucci**

♩ = 126

Musical notation for the song 'American Dream' in 4/4 time. The tempo is 126 beats per minute. The notation shows a drum part with a consistent pattern of eighth notes and rests, featuring accents and a snare drum.

There are other types of rock grooves and fills that can be covered in many different method books aside from what you have already seen. However, if you take the time to learn all the things in the "Rock Grooves" section, you'll gain an appreciation for the genre and you will also have the ability to play in the appropriate style.

Rock will forever be known as a pivotal genre in our pop culture that will span generations. So go listen to your favorite rock songs and listen to how the drummers play the style, how they stay in sync with the other musicians, and how their part fits into the song.

Check out the music of these rock artists listed here:

John Cougar Mellencamp	Bon Jovi
Metallica	Alice Cooper
Judas Priest	Dave Matthews Band
311	The Beatles
Local H	Foghat
Gin Blossoms	Lynyrd Skynyrd
Pantera	Whitesnake
Chicago	Joan Jett
Elvis Presley	Maroon 5
Huey Lewis & The News	The Killers
Simple Minds	Ozzy Osbourne
David Bowie	Billy Idol
The Police	Lenny Kravitz
Aerosmith	Foo Fighters
Jimi Hendrix	Boston
Daughtry	Led Zeppelin
Santana	Kiss

Also take the time to look into some rock drummers. Here are the names of several drummers in popular rock bands.

Steven Adler (Guns N' Roses)	Steve Jordan (John Mayer, Bruno Mars)
Will Calhoun (Living Colour)	Joey Kramer (Aerosmith)
Matt Cameron (Pearl Jam, Soundgarden)	Keith Moon (The Who)
Denny Carmassi (Heart)	John Panozzo (Styx)
Aaron Comess (Spin Doctors)	Jeff Porcaro (Toto)
Stewart Copland (The Police)	Phil Rudd (AC/DC)
Peter Criss (Kiss)	Danny Seraphine (Chicago)
Sheila E. (Ringo Starr, Prince)	Chad Smith (Red Hot Chilli Peppers)
Dennis Elliott (Foreigner)	Steve Smith (Journey, Mariah Carey)
Bill Gibson (Huey Lewis & The News)	Ringo Starr (The Beatles)
Alan Gratzner (REO Speedwagon)	Roger Taylor (Queen)
Dave Grohl (Nirvana)	Chester Thompson (Phil Collins)
Alex Van Halen (Van Halen)	Charlie Watts (The Rolling Stones)
Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters)	Alan White (Yes)