From Zero to Drummer in 3 Easy Lessons Lesson#1- GUN & DUN Mark Powers www.powerspercussion.com

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Alright, no messing around here; no time for chit-chat; grab a djembe or ashiko or conga; it's time to get to work! Better yet, grab a drum and a friend or two to learn along with. Drumming is even more fun in a group!

Have a seat in a comfortable, armless chair. Get that drum up off the ground by hugging it [leaning away from you] between your knees and/or resting it on top of your feet.



Hit the center of the head with your right palm, keeping your hand flat and relaxed. This is our lowest pitched (bass) tone. Let's call it GUN (pronounced 'goon'). Play the same stroke with your left hand. We'll call this DUN (pronounced 'doon'). Make sure that both GUN and DUN sound exactly the same. And remember to stay relaxed.

Time to jam! Here is a simple rhythm that emulates the steady beating of our hearts.

To make our reading easy, I will shorten GUN to simply G, and DUN will be D. To help you internalize the rhythm, speak aloud each stroke as you play it. When you read 'G,' speak the syllable 'GUN' and simultaneously play the bass stroke with your right hand. When you read 'D,' speak the syllable 'DUN' and simultaneously play the bass stroke with your left hand. Don't be shy- speak loudly. Speaking (or singing!) the syllables and rhythms with your mouth will help your hands to learn them faster. Anytime that you read a dash (-) just quietly say the word 'rest' to yourself, and don't play a stroke on your drum. Start slowly- it is much better to be slow and precise than to be fast and sloppy. Speed will come with controlled, accurate repetition. Take your time, repeat the rhythm over and over, until you feel comfortable with it and, above all else, have fun . . .

G - - D G - - D G - - D G - - D (repeat many times)

Spoken, this rhythm is "GUN (rest) (rest) DUN GUN (rest) (rest) DUN" . . . etc, etc, etc.

The hands you were using should have been: right (rest) (rest) left, etc.

Excellent job! Let's try a new pattern . . .

You didn't believe that it would be this easy, did you? We can't stop therenow combine our first rhythm with our second rhythm. Take the first four notes of each, put them together, and voilá...

By now you have a fairly good grasp of the GUN and DUN (bass) strokes. Here are a few more patterns for you to play. Feel free to make up some of your own. Have fun with them and don't forget to stay relaxed, sing and practice, practice! In Lesson#2 we will add 'Open' tones to our 'Bass' tones to create more great sounding rhythms.

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