

Essential Accessories: Your Guide to Sticks, Hearing Protection, and More

With your drum kit and throne sorted, it's time for the essential accessories! These are the tools that ensure your practice is safe, comfortable, and effective. You don't need everything on this list on day one, but these are my top recommendations as you get settled into your drumming routine.

1. Drum Key: The Most Important Tool in Your Tool Box

Any entry level drum kit you purchase should come with a drum key. Drum keys allow you to tighten or loosen the heads, known as tensioning the head. A looser head will have less rebound with a lower pitch, and a tighter head will increase rebound and pitch. The drum key allows you to adjust this by changing the tension of the “tension rods”.

2. Drum Sticks: Your Connection to the Kit

The right sticks feel balanced in your hands and help you get the best sound from the drums.

- **My Recommendations for Beginners:** To keep things simple, I have two main recommendations based on hand size and age.
 - **For Kids (12 and under):** I recommend **Vic Firth 5A** sticks. They are a standard size that's perfectly balanced for smaller hands.
 - **For Teens & Adults (13+):** I recommend **5B** sticks. They are slightly thicker and heavier than 5As, providing a bit more power and durability.
- **For Experienced Drummers:** If you already have a preferred stick model, that's great! Feel free to bring what you are comfortable with. As long as it's a standard wood or nylon-tipped drumstick, you'll be good to go.
- **Lesson Logistics:** Please bring your sticks to each lesson. Using your own sticks helps build consistency and comfort. But don't worry if you forget them—I always have extra pairs you can borrow.

3. Hearing Protection: The Most Important Accessory

This is non-negotiable. A drum set is a loud instrument, and protecting our hearing is the key to a long and healthy drumming life.

- **The "Why":** An acoustic drum kit can easily reach levels above 100 decibels (dB). Medically, hearing damage can begin from prolonged exposure to sounds over 80 dB. Because of this, we always use hearing protection in our lessons.
- **In Our Lessons:** I will provide professional-grade [Ultraplones](#) for you to use during our lessons. These headphones reduce the outside noise level by nearly 30 dB, keeping your ears safe while allowing you to hear the music and instruction clearly.
- **For Your Practice at Home:** You need a good solution for home practice, too. Here are my recommendations:

- **Over-Ear Headphones (Best for Kids & General Use):** These are simple, durable, and easy to keep clean.
 - **Good:** [Behringer DH80 Headphones](#) - A solid, budget-friendly option that provides enough sound isolation for practice with an e-kit.
 - **Better:** [Vic Firth Isolation Headphones](#) - These are my top recommendations. They offer significantly more noise reduction (25 dB), making them great for both electronic *and* acoustic drum practice.
- **In-Ear Monitors (For Older/More Experienced Students):** For those who prefer a more discreet in-ear fit and high-fidelity audio, this combination is unbeatable for the price.
 - **Headphones:** [KZ In-Ear Monitors](#) - I can't speak highly enough of these. The price-to-quality ratio is off the charts, delivering clear audio in a comfortable format.
 - **Upgraded Eartips:** [Comply Foam Tips](#) - These foam tips are a fantastic upgrade for the KZ headphones. They expand in your ear to create a perfect seal, providing the best sound isolation and protection I've found yet.

4. Your Practice Tech Setup

We often use phones or tablets to view sheet music or play along with songs. Looking down at a device on the floor is bad for your posture and focus. Here are two cheap and easy solutions to fix that.

- **A Stand for Your Device:** Instead of a flimsy music stand, I recommend a portable projector stand. It's far more stable and can easily hold a laptop or tablet securely at eye level, which is perfect for your posture.
 - **Recommendation:** [CAHAYA Projector Stand](#)
- **Headphone Cable Extender:** Yes Bluetooth is a cool technology. But it will have a noticeable delay between what is happening on your screen and what you are hearing. All of the headphones I have recommended are for wired connections because of that reason. Sometimes we need a little more length out of a cable. I recommend grabbing whichever headphone cable extender is cheapest on amazon. We also carry them at Music Go Round.
- **A Wireless Mouse:** This is a simple but brilliant hack. A wireless mouse can connect to most tablets, laptops, and phones via Bluetooth, acting as a remote control. Now you can instantly start, stop, or rewind a song without having to get up from your throne.
 - **Recommendation:** [Logitech M317c Wireless Mouse](#)