

# CYMBAL SOUNDS

DRUM LESSONS IN LA.COM



Let's talk about cymbals and some of the sounds you can get from them.

Cymbals are very versatile. They come in different sizes, shapes... and their sound changes depending on what you strike them with, how you strike them, and where you strike them. You can modify them and even combine them to customize their sounds. Here are some different ways you can get sounds from your cymbals.



## THE CYMBALS

The main cymbals in a drum set are the **hi-hats**, **crash**, and **ride**. Additionally, we have **china**, **splash**, and **FX** cymbals. All of various sizes and thicknesses. Each of these has its own intended sound that can be altered depending on where you strike it.

- \* You can play the ride cymbal on the bell, body, or edge of the cymbal.
- \* You can choke the crash cymbal.
- \* And the hi-hat is most versatile because there are two cymbals that close together that you can also play with your foot.
- \* You can also get different sounds by the angle at which you strike the cymbal.
- \* You can also muffle a cymbal's tone with gaffer tape or gel dampeners.

It's good to know how to properly play each cymbal traditionally but also experiment with getting different sounds such as those mentioned above.



## THE STICKS

Additionally, the sound of the cymbal can change depending on what strikes it. Try using sticks with different-sized tips, mallets, dowel rods, and even your hands.



## THE TRADITION

Next, you can experiment with using the cymbals differently than they were intended, like

- \* Making hi-hats out of splash cymbals (if the splashes are too thin, try doubling up on the bottom one).
  - \* Making hi-hats out of two crashes,
  - \* Or even making hi hats out of two ride cymbals.
  - \* The bottom hi-hat cymbal is usually thicker and heavier than the top one.
- Try switching them around to see what it sounds like.



## THE STACKS

And you can get some pleasantly interesting and unpleasantly interesting sounds by stacking different cymbals together.

- \* Try combining a splash or crash cymbal inside of a china cymbal.
  - \* Try two splash cymbals both facing the same direction.
- Experiment with different combinations and sizes of cymbals.



## THE SIZZLE

A long, long time ago and in a land far away, rivets were drilled into cymbals to prolong their resonance. The rivets would bounce against the cymbal, producing a sizzle effect. Well, you don't have to drill into your cymbal to get that effect. You can wrap dog tag chains around the end of your cymbal stand to lay across the cymbal to get the same effect. Several cymbal companies make similar accessories to get that sound.



-----

It's important to know how each cymbal is played traditionally, but you can get some unique sounds from your cymbals by experimenting with these examples.