

THE DRUM KIT

Although considered one instrument, the drum kit is really a set of different instruments made up of the **snare** drum, **bass** drum, **tom-toms** and **cymbals**.

The **SNARE DRUM** is a small **horizontal** drum that is in front of the player. The dry, rattling sounds of this drum are produced by the snare - a band of **wires** stretched across the bottom head (skin).

The **BASS DRUM** is the **large** central drum which is struck with a **padded** stick connected by a lever to a foot pedal. It gives off a low, thumping sound which can be quite penetrating.

Different **sized** **TOM-TOMS** are attached to the bass drum and also surround the player on stands. These are **small** drums that can be **tuned** to different pitches for effect. The **FLOOR TOM** is the largest of these hollow-sounding drums and, as the name suggests, stands on the floor.

The **CYMBALS** are **circular** metal discs on stands that produce shattering metallic sounds. There can be many different types and sizes of cymbals in a kit, depending on the effects required. The main types of cymbals are:

- ❖ The **RIDE CYMBAL** used to play **rhythmic** patterns;
- ❖ The **CRASH CYMBAL** used for accenting and for marking climaxes;
- ❖ The **HI-HAT** consists of **two** cymbals mounted horizontally, with the higher one connected to a spring action **foot** lever that brings it into contact with the lower one.

These drums and cymbals form a standard kit, but many drummers add more drums and extra instruments such as **cowbells**, tambourines, gongs and tambours (small frame drums played with a stick or the bare hand). Many rock group drummers like to use two kick drums and a number of different cymbals such as the **sizzle**.

A drum kit is usually played with **wooden** sticks, but can be played with wire brushes for a different, softer effect.