

from hand to drum

HAND DRUM TECHNIQUES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



© WWW.PETELOCKETT.COM

This month we're going to conclude our look at the North Indian dholak by looking at an alternative way of playing, using a ring on the thumb of the hand which plays the treble head. Any metal ring – a key ring, for example – can be used, just as long as it fits tightly on the thumb, as in Fig. 1.

The basic technique involves tapping the ring on the side of the shell while the inside of the little and ring fingers strikes the edge of the treble. This can be slightly more tricky on a bolt-tensioned dholak, because it can be easy to strike your thumb on the bolts. Begin by striking the ringed thumb on the edge of the shell, as in Fig. 2.

The next step is to begin practising striking the inside of the fingers on the edge of the head, as in Fig. 3



These are the two basic strokes articulated by the right hand on the treble head. Now begin working on these basic patterns for the right hand:

Ex 1
Ring Thumb
Fingers

Ex 2
Ring Thumb
Fingers

Ex 3
Ring Thumb
Fingers

Ex 4
Ring Thumb
Fingers

Now we can begin to integrate the left hand bass tones into some of these patterns. You might remember the names of some of these rhythms from previous articles. This is because these are some of the most common rhythms found in North Indian folk music, like our basic 4/4 and 6/8 rhythmic frameworks. Good luck and I'll see you next time for a bit of South Indian flavour.

Ex 5
Ring Thumb
Fingers
KE
GE

Ex 6
Ring Thumb
Fingers
KE
GE

Ex 7
Ring Thumb
Fingers
KE
GE

Ex 8
Ring Thumb
Fingers
KE
GE

Ex 9
Ring Thumb
Fingers
KE
GE

Ex 10
Ring Thumb
Fingers
KE
GE