

# from hand to drum

## HAND DRUM TECHNIQUES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



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This month we are going to conclude our look at some possibilities on the udu clay drum by adapting some Indian styles of hand drumming. This will also be good preparation for next month's article which will begin looking at the North Indian folk drum called the dhol, as featured in last month's issue.

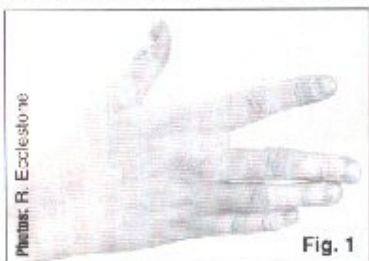


Fig. 1

One striking feature of most Indian drumming is the use of each hand for the production of different tones, the left hand dealing with the bass, the right with the treble. Technical possibilities are increased by the splitting of

the fingers of each hand into two striking units. If you read the kanjira articles (April-June '95) then you will already be familiar with this technique. Split the right hand into two striking units as in Fig. 1.

Now, with the side hole on the pot on the left, begin striking the right side of the pot, firstly with the three finger striking unit (Fig. 2), and then with

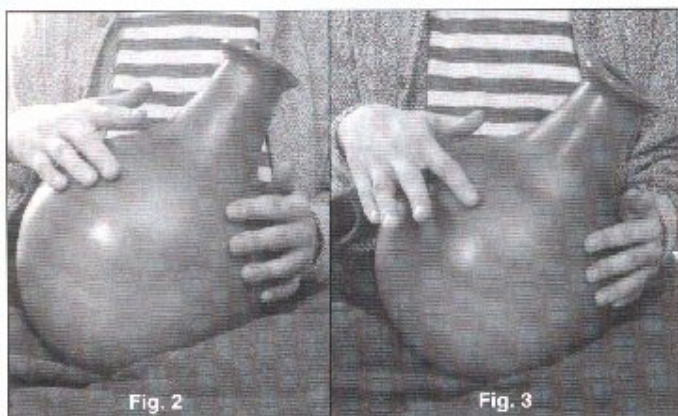


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

the one finger striking unit (Fig. 3). Practice this to a regular pulse until you feel comfortable with it. The sound produced should be sharp and clear.

For the left hand we will have two strokes. The first is the open bass tone as in the previous articles, except with the left hand.

The other sound for the left hand will be the finger tip sound on the side of the pot. You should strike just in front of the hole, not far from where your fingers fall naturally when laying over the hole. There should be no open bass sound when you play this stroke. The sound should be more like the high sound coming from the other hand.

That's all you need to know to get going. Here are a few examples to start you off:



**KEY**

Open bass (left hand)      Hi pitch (left finger tips)      Right hand (3 fingered units)      Right hand (1 fingered unit)

1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3

1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3

1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3

1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3

1 3 1 3 1 3 1

1 3 1 3 1 3

1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3

1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3

1 1 3 1 1 3 1

1 1 3 1 3 1 1 3 1 3 1

1 3 1 3 1 3 1 3

Small piece for udu entitled STEP BY STEP

Pickup in  $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$

1st

2nd

1st

2nd

8  $\frac{6}{4}$   $\frac{4}{4}$  *Fino*