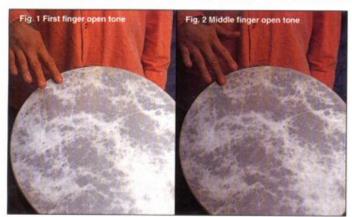
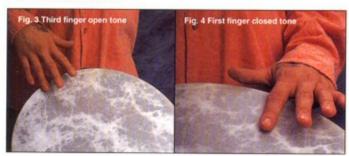




Mounted Frame Drum



There are several styles of frame drumming which utilise both hands as well as holding the drum at the same time. But by far the easiest way to get double-handed is to mount your drum on a stand. I use a 14" drum and a standard snare drum stand. The advantage of this is that it frees the hands up in a way that wouldn't be possible were you to hold the drum at the same time.

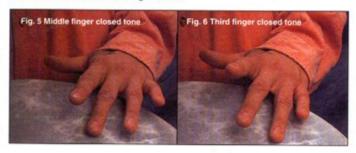


Frame drumming is one of the most ancient forms of percussion, yet it's only recently, thanks to the likes of Glen Velez and John Bergamo, that it's becoming well known here in the UK. If you can get hold of any recordings or videos of these two, do – they are stunning.

The playing technique we're going to be looking at is very much a hybrid method, bringing in influences from many other styles of hand drumming. Individual fingers on both hands are used in a way that quickly facilitates fast note configurations.

We'll begin by looking at closed and open notes with individual fingers. The high pitched open notes are played as near to the edge of the drum as possible with the tips of the fingers.

In Fig. 1,2 and 3 we see the note being played with the first, second and third fingers of the left hand. The notes are articulated in an identical manner with the right hand.



The fingers should strike firmly and sharply and should not stay in contact with the head after impact. The sound should be high pitched, staccato and clear, and the drum should ring after impact.

In Fig. 4, 5 and 6 we see the striking position for the notes played in the closed manner. The finger tips should stay in contact with the head after impact and the drum should not ring. Technically speaking, you should play 'into' the drum head.

Right then, let's get on to some musical examples. Don't forget to relax while you play, and don't overdo the practice. Ciao for now...

