

Warrenton High School

Recommended Individual Percussion Equipment

High school percussionists should own their OWN mallets to be effective in band. Without proper mallets, it is impossible for students to be able to produce a good tone on the percussion instruments. Besides, percussionists have it easy compared to the other people in the band, who have to buy reeds, mutes, mouthpieces, and the instrument itself.

The list below is a simple list that will work for most all music that a high school band would play. As far as the brand is concerned, if you have to substitute something similar (due to these not being available), please make sure it is as close as possible. Don't let the guy at the local music shop try to sell you something they think is right. These models were chosen because of their proven performance (sound, quality, durability, cost) in many different music ensembles.

On all drum sticks, avoid nylon tip sticks as the tips always break off and do not produce as good of a sound as wood (especially noticeable on cymbals). Also, try to match the sticks in weight and pitch. This is crucial in being able to obtain a balanced sound between the hands. People may look at you funny, but by dropping the sticks on a surface such as carpet, you will be able to hear a distinct pitch in each stick. You can sort the sticks in pitch order (a stick xylophone) and pick the two that are close as possible in pitch and weight. Companies like Vic Firth have already done this at the factory and put them into cardboard sleeves, but always check to see if somebody didn't mess up the pair by mixing it with another.

This list is in a general order of what would one buy first. It would be totally unreasonable to purchase all of these mallets at one time up front, especially if one were not to continue in music past their freshman year in high school. Again, by investing in good equipment, one will better their chances of success in their future career or hobby in music, not to mention show a commitment to taking percussion seriously.

Mallets/Sticks:	Brand:	Model:	Approx. Price:
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Concert Snare Drum Sticks

Vic Firth

SD1 or SD2

\$7.00



Should be of a medium-heavy weight, not something smaller. Especially for concert music, this will help the drum sound its best, not have a thin tone, and allow you to be able to play more dynamically (louder and softer). The SD1 is 16 7/16" Dia.=.635. SD2 is 15 3/4", Dia.=.635

Ralph Hardimon

Vic Firth

2S

\$7.50



With a unique barrel tip and long taper for quick rebound and added control. Should be of a heavy weight, as the high tension heads marching drums have require a stick heavy enough to move it. These models are around 16 1/2 long and .750" in diameter. Also, the thick diameter helps in durability, as thinner models will break and sound bad anyway with their thin tone. Stay away from the nylon tip (SRHN)

Timpani mallets

Vic Firth

T1 General

\$29.40



Should have a soft felt head that produces a good tone that produces a good tone that blends with the band. Buying an extra model, the harder Vic Firth T4 would be ideal, since some music will require a more staccato tone that needs to cut through the band (such as 16th note passages).

Staccato Timpani Mallets

Vic Firth

T3 General

\$29.40



This model is great for music that requires a more staccato tone (that needs to cut through the band such as 16th note passages). It should never need to be re-felted, and has durable maple shafts.

Xylo/Bell Mallets

Musser
Mike Balter

M-5
04 (birch)



These are very durable fiberglass handle models, but birch would be preferred. Either way, this mallet needs to have a hard plastic or phenolic head that is small (about 1") in diameter.

Cymbal Mallets

Musser
Mike Balter

M-8
04 (birch) \$17.50



Ideally one would buy a set of 4 mallets (\$64 total) to be able to play 4 mallet passages called for in band, orchestra, and solo marimba literature. These mallets have a medium yarn head with long birch handles that will sound great for cymbal rolls and general marimba playing (utilizing the Stevens grip). For those not pursuing 4 mallet playing, then a set of 2 would suffice. Use of the vibes and marimba will require a mallet of this softness or softer, and use of ANY of the other xylophone / bell mallets (listed above) on the vibes or marimba WILL damage the instrument and of course not be tolerated.

Accessory Mallets

Musser

M-2 \$17.50



Should have a medium rubber ball that will wound in between a stick and a soft yarn mallet. Again these are very durable fiberglass models and a birch handle would be preferred.

Stick
Bag:

Vic Firth

Basic Stick Bag \$14.00



This is your standard cordura nylon model that has a zipper, 4 pockets and an outside pouch.

Vibe/Marimba Mallets

Innovative Perc.

IP-301

\$35.00



Ideally one would buy a set of 4 mallets (\$64 total) to be able to play 4 mallet passages called for in band, orchestra, jazz band and solo vibe / marimba literature. These mallets have a medium hard cord head with rattan handles that will sound great on especially vibe and marimba playing (utilizing the traditional and Burton grips). For those not pursuing 4 mallet playing, then a set of 2 would suffice. Use of the vibes and marimba will require a mallet of this softness or softer, and use of ANY of the other xylophone / bell mallets (listed above) on the vibes or marimba WILL damage the instrument and of course not be tolerated.

Drum Set Sticks

Vic Firth

5A

\$7.00



This model is your general drum set stick that works well for many styles in the jazz band setting. It also is light in weight and will sound good on cymbals. For those wanting more volume, a move to a larger 5B would work, but using sticks that are bigger than a 5B will not allow one to be able produce dynamics easily and are not appropriate for the jazz band setting. Those who use large sticks on drum set often find themselves wearing out drum heads much quicker and losing their hearing as these people also have a tendency to not understand why they are the target of many drummer jokes.

Brushes Vic Firth

Jazz Brush

\$22.00



Regal Tip

Vic Firth

Soft handle

Jazz Brush

\$22.00



These models are your general wire brush that will work for both jazz band and also for certain requirements in band and orchestra literature. The Vic Firth is stiffer and some say more durable, but has hard handles. The Regal Tip model was the standard for many years and has a soft handle which works great for soft cymbal rolls. Both models have a metal loop on the opposite end that work on cymbal scrapes.

Stick Bag w/ Sticks and Mallets

Vic Firth

EP2

\$99



HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!! A great option with almost everything included. Instead of buying all of the equipment separate, start with this pack. Comes with cordura nylon model that has a zipper, 4 pockets and an outside pouch, SD2 sticks, M3 (wound all around mallet), M6 (hard phenolic head for bells and xylo) and T3 (medium hard timpani mallet for articulated response)

