



UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA MALAYSIA
FACULTY OF MUSIC

A STUDY ABOUT DRUMMER PREFERENCE ON
TRADITIONAL AND MATCHED STICK GRIP
TOWARD PROFESSIONAL AND STUDENT
OF MUSIC SCHOOL MAJORING IN DRUM,

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2008408016

MU 222

MAY 2011

Declaration of Authorship

“I declare that this thesis is result of my own work with the exception of the ideas and summaries which I have clarified their sources. This thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted as candidature for any degree”

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(Mohd Faizat Bin Ahmad Zabidi)

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Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

A number of new intakes for universities are increasing every year and this also experienced by Uitm Faculty of Music. From my observation here, fresh student in this faculty always face a problem to find their basic fundamental on their technique or virtuoso. Usually for student majoring in drums they always have a problem to find the right technique that they should learn first and develop their abilities to be a drummer. One of the problems is that in terms of the right techniques that appropriate to grip a stick. There is two basic style of holding a grip which is traditional grip and matched grip. Beginner's student always has a problem to play which grip first.

This study is conducted to give a clear understanding for beginner's drummer and to give them the right technique to hold the stick for purpose of starting the learning lesson to be a good drummer thus to be one of the best drummer in Malaysia. This study is conducted in UiTM Shah Alam Faculty of Music and interview session with the professional who are the drum lecturer and also to a student who majoring in drum. They are the best person that can give their view and share their experience because they have gone through the situation and already master the technique.

The first technique that relates to the study is Traditional grip which also known as Orthodox grip. It is a technique used to hold drum sticks while playing percussion. Traditional grip is almost exclusively used to play the snare drum, especially the marching snare drum, and often the drum kit. The overhand grip most commonly used is the American grip. With the underhand grip, there are several different techniques employed which involve slight variations in finger positioning and usage.

Common with all techniques is the usage of the wrist in rotating (a motion like turning a door knob) as the fundamental motion of the stick. Once the stick has started moving, more involved techniques require the exclusive use of the thumb for bouncing the stick when playing really fast. The stick then rests in the space between the thumb and index finger, and the two fingers close around the stick with the thumb atop the index at the first knuckle. The middle finger then rests slightly on top side of the stick. The stick then rests on the cuticle of the ring finger with the little finger supporting the ring finger from below.

Second technique is Matched grip which is a method of holding drum sticks and mallets to play percussion instruments. In the matched grip, each hand holds its stick in the same way, whereas in the traditional grip, each hand holds the stick differently. Almost all commonly used matched grips are overhand grips. Specific forms of the grip are French grip, German grip, and American grip.

The matched grip is performed by gripping the drum sticks with one's index finger and middle finger curling around the bottom of the stick and the thumb on the top. This allows the stick to move freely and bounce after striking a percussion instrument.

In French grip, the palms of the hands face directly toward each other and the stick is moved primarily with the fingers rather than the wrist as in German grip. This allows a greater degree of finesse. Because this grip uses the smaller and faster finger muscles, this grip is used by single-stroke champions. It also comes in handy for playing fast tempo swing or jazz for the ride cymbal. For louder strokes, the wrist rotates much in the same way as when hammering a nail.

In German grip, the palms of the hands are parallel to the drumhead or other playing surface, and the stick is moved primarily with the wrist. German grip provides a large amount of