

## **Demonstrate?:**

*Perform abbreviated version of  
“Curt”.*

## **Definition of Drum Rudiments**

- **A drum rudiment is a group of drum beats that form a pattern to create a rhythm which can be used as a marching cadence or to accompany a melody.**
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- **The drum rudiments are sometimes described as the building blocks of rhythm.**
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- **Demo Simple Cadence**
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- **Demo Accompany Melody**

## **Brief History:**

- **The first recorded notation of a drum rudiment is from Basel, Switzerland in 1384.**
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- **The Swiss army being a mercenary one, hired out to warring countries throughout Europe. The Swiss drummers brought their military drumming knowledge to the army musicians of their client states.**
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- **Using the Swiss rudiments as a template, these countries' musicians adapted their own sensibilities, hence: French rudimental drumming, German rudimental drumming, British rudimental drumming, the latter discipline being the one which evolved to be the American rudimental tradition.**
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- **Rudimental drumming was utilized by the militaries for creating cadences which could be used for hard marches and for the movement of troops on the battlefield.**
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- **Beyond that drummers with fifers or buglers, depending on the country and/or the era, would perform musical pieces called camp duties to instruct the camp-bound troops what to do and when.**

## **Swiss Basel Drumming - with Piccolo**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyXIU\\_788Gs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyXIU_788Gs)

## **Rudimental Drumming United States (Fife & Drum)**

***Military rudimental drumming arrived in North America with the British colonists. Army troops were assigned to the various new settlements as protectors of these immigrant people. These troops would eventually evolve into civilian volunteer (or mandatory) militias.***

***Notably, in New England, drums along with fifes were used to announce the orders of the day, similar to what was done in the army camps. Besides the marching cadences and tunes, dance music such as jigs, reels and hornpipes were played by the fifes and drums.***

***New England, especially Connecticut, has maintained the tradition of fife and drum to this day. There are Connecticut fife and drum corps active today that were organized in the 19th Century.***

## **A History of the Drum**

<https://companyoffeanddrum.org/images/Members/AT-Past-Issues/2000-2009/Issue103.pdf>

## **The American Civil War and the Decline of Fife and Drum in the US Army**

## **The Bruce and Emmitt Drummers' and Fifers' Guide 1862**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e5F9BXGvok8>

- **The US Army moves toward drum and bugle - The horn has better carry on the battlefield?**
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- **Fife & Drum used more for hard marching and ceremonial activities.**
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- **Civilian drum corps become popular after the Civil War - Patriotic Parades & Ceremonies**

**The first drum corps competition organization, The Connecticut Fifers and Drummers Association, 1885**

**The N.A.R.D. National Association of Rudimental Drummer 1933**

[https://www.nard.us.com/History\\_of\\_N.A.R.D..html](https://www.nard.us.com/History_of_N.A.R.D..html)

**The 26 American Drum Rudiments by Frank Arsenault**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEAEPqevTm4&t=1138s>

**American Civilian Fife & Drum Corps**

***With the advent of technologies such as telegraph and radio drums used to signal battlefield commands became no longer needed.***

**Some Fife and Drum Performances in Connecticut - 2019**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5fDonA2pflM&list=PLn5XKg6TTNjYIX7UIzhz5GwaRX6MGEIH5>

## **Connecticut Patriots Fife & Drum Corps in Portsmouth** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HH273kUP-W8>

### **Rudimental Drumming and Popular Music**

- **Inarguably what we consider modern popular music, rather than folk or classical, was born in New Orleans, Louisiana and vicinity in the late 19th and very early 20th centuries. This early pop music was an amalgam of African rhythms, the blue notes from the Mississippi delta, brass band music and from the earlier syncopated adaptation to a European musical sensitivity called ragtime. Scott Joplin the most famous and most remembered of the ragtime pianists.**
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- **Our drum rudiments fit in this scenario with the brass bands whose drummers were often former military drummers who may have served the Civil War. These drummers would have been familiar with the rudiments as taught by the army manuals of the time.**
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- **It has been suggested that with New Orleans at that time having pawn shops full of former CSA army musical instruments, it had become affordable for the poorer African American musicians to acquire relatively finer musical instruments, including drums.**
- **It was from these Black musicians who had become the great pioneers of jazz:**

- **Buddy Bolden, Kid Ory, King Oliver and so many others including Louis Armstrong who brought this music to the world.**
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- **These former military drummers and those drummers influenced by the former, became the rhythmic drive of the multitude of jazz bands that filled the streets and clubs of New Orleans at that time. Influence also from classically trained drummers can not be ignored. This can be seen with the early jazz drummers' use of press and buzz rolls.**
- **Many of the bands of this early period consisted of Creole musicians trained in the European, particularly French, classical discipline. The ingredients in the creation of this new, popular music became truly a 'Gumbo'**
- **The drumming style needed to change from the marches and camp duties to the now syncopated rhythms of the new music. The drumming would become by necessity less dense and more open and now have a sense of 'swing' which would define jazz and future iterations of jazz, such as Hot Jazz, Swing, Bebop, Rock and beyond.**

**History of the Drumset - New Orleans Drumming**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaXeN8OISbs>

## **Warren 'Baby' Dodds and Other Early New Orleans Jazz Drummers**

***Although he wasn't the first, Baby Dodds is considered the father of jazz drumming and hence the popular drumming that followed***

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baby\\_Dodds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baby_Dodds)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1IMMeEWD-2A&t=509s>

## **Rudiments on Drum Set - Jim Clark**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INJMA85o744>

**Drum & Bugle Corps?**

**VFW/AL Drum Corps Associations?**