

FIVE-STAR TECH TIPS

DRUMSTICK SELECTION

Selecting a pair of drumsticks is one of the most personal and important decisions a drummer can make. To help in this process, drumstick manufacturers currently offer dozens of different models—each with a unique combination of factors including material, length, weight, diameter, tip, neck, taper and finish—and all designed to fit specific situations and styles.

Length, weight and diameter influence the stick's control and dynamic capabilities. Long, heavy, wide sticks are designed for loud, aggressive playing. Short, light, narrow sticks are easier to handle, but may not have the power needed for more intense music.

The size and shape of the tip are also factors in stick design and selection. A larger, flatter tip will create a sound with more overtones; a smaller, rounder tip will be more articulate. Nylon and wood tip types offer different tonal characteristics, as well.

Drumsticks have historically been classified into A, B and S models by their neck and taper. “A” models had thin necks and long tapers for “orchestral” playing while “B” and “S” models featured thicker necks

and shorter tapers for “band” and “street” applications. These elements are closely linked to a sticks's durability, response and balance. The chart below shows the average sizes of some standard drumstick models:

model	weight	length	diameter	neck
7A	1.50oz	15.75"	.530"	.235"
5A	1.75oz	16.00"	.575"	.255"
5B	2.00oz	16.00"	.600"	.280"
2B	2.25oz	16.25"	.650"	.295"

Although oak, maple and other woods are often used for drumsticks, hickory remains the most popular stick material. Hickory has a comfortable, natural feel plus it is relatively abundant, durable and accepts a variety of finishes.

Choose your favorite drumstick model by determining which factors are right for you and your drumming. While many drummers prefer a general-purpose 5A or 5B, it's OK to try different models based on the music you play. Pick your sticks by:

1. Rolling them to make sure that they're straight.
2. Tapping them to make sure that they're the same pitch and weight.

factor	heavier styles • maximum durability	lighter styles • maximum response
neck/taper	thick/short	thin/long
factor	heavier styles • maximum power	lighter styles • maximum control
length/diameter/weight	long/wide/heavy	short/narrow/light
factor	heavier styles • maximum spread	lighter styles • maximum articulation
tip type/size	flat/large	round/small



oval tip

rounded oval tip

round tip

acorn tip

barrell tip

To learn more about drumsticks, including the sticks your favorite drummers play, ask your dealer or log on to the drumstick companies' websites listed throughout this guide.