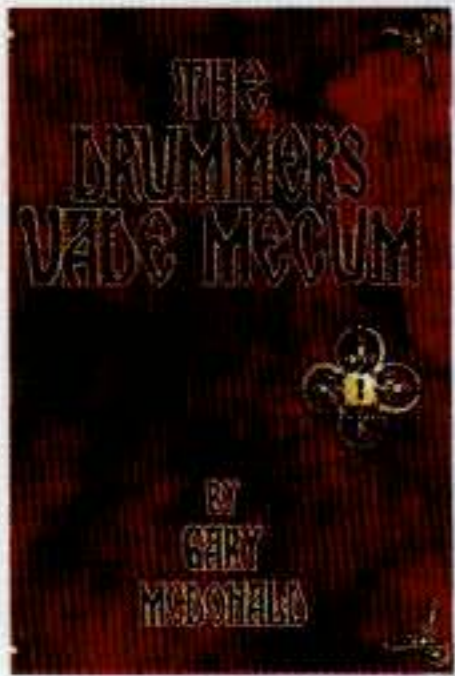


MULTI-MEDIA

THE DRUMMERS VADE MECUM BY GARY MCDONALD

BOOK/CD LEVEL: ALL \$39.95

★★★★★



Carrying around too many drum books? Australian instructor Gary McDonald's intention for *The Drummers Vade Mecum* (Latin for "reference book") was to distill a library of drumming texts into one source. At 248 pages, the book is a bit unwieldy. But it does manage to coalesce various concepts like sticking exercises, shuffles, linear rock, double bass, Latin grooves, odd times, and press rolls for convenient accessibility. Minor misstep: The included CD's cheap-sounding electronic drums might distract beginners. (www.myspace.com/thedrummersvademecum)

Ilya Stemkovsky

THOMAS LANG CREATIVE CONTROL

BOOK/CD LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED \$24.95

★★★★★



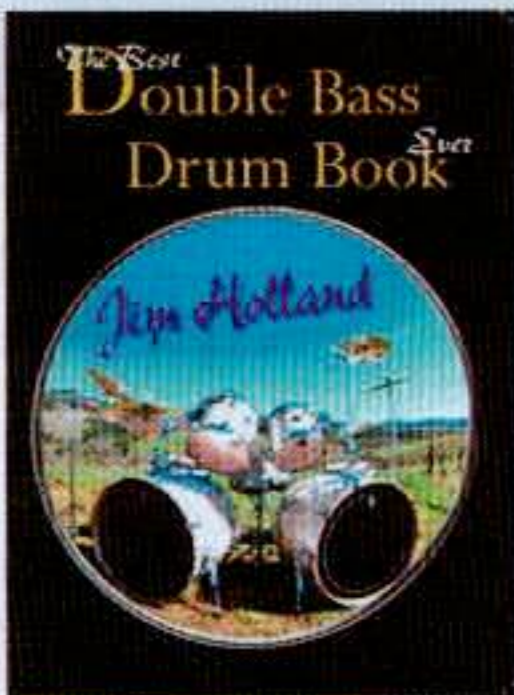
Creative Control is the type of advanced instructional that tests our will to push our physical and mental drumming abilities to the absolute maximum breaking point. The first half of the book focuses on Lang's demanding practice exercises. These feature challenging rudimental patterns designed to condition the hands and feet for the extreme interdependence workouts typical of his playing. There are also multi-pedal orchestrations and Sonor Giant Step Twin Effect Pedal exercises. Part Two features five drum charts from original compositions also found on the accompanying play-along CD (with and without drums), taken from the drummer's 2004 DVD release of the same name. Lang explains the origins and structure of each track with helpful hints to master these complex creations.

(Hudson Music) Mike Haid

THE BEST DOUBLE BASS DRUM BOOK EVER BY JIM HOLLAND

BOOK/2 CDs LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED \$24.95

★★★★★



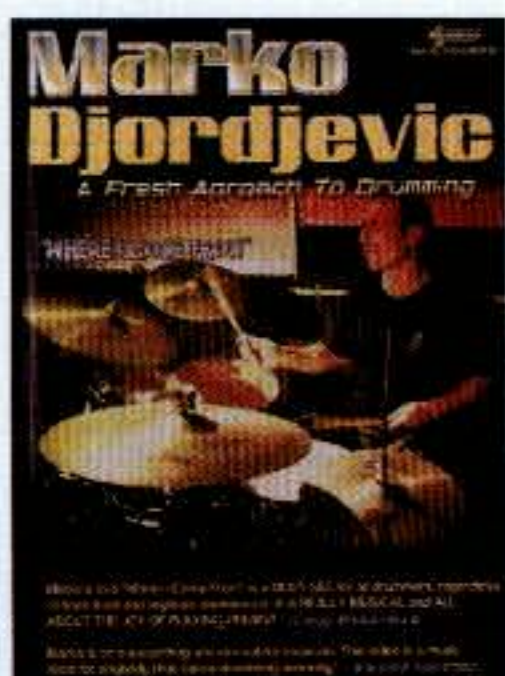
California-based drum instructor Jim Holland's epic new tome *The Best Double Bass Drum Book Ever* may in fact be just that. The 616 patterns here range from relatively simple 16th notes to mind-bending triplet fills with rests on the downbeat, leaving any player inspired with new ideas. The sheer number of transcriptions is exhaustive and will benefit anyone looking to expand his double bass vocabulary—especially aspiring metal drummers who want to delve into the playing of masters like Charlie Benante or Mike Portnoy. (www.jimholland.com)

Ilya Stemkovsky

MARKO DJORDJEVIC WHERE I COME FROM: A FRESH APPROACH TO DRUMMING

DVD LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED \$30

★★★★★



World-class drummer Marko Djordjevic's articulate and soft-spoken approach to dissecting his original instrumental world/jazz compositions is intimate, sincere, and educational. The low-budget production is easily forgiven, given the high quality of information and the outstanding performances by Djordjevic and bassist Janek Gwizdala. Djordjevic also covers topics like proper posture, hand and foot techniques, odd meters, and metric modulation. This well-organized production features written examples from various musical performances and includes several inspiring performance clips. There is much to be learned when this DVD is properly digested. (www.myspace.com/svetimarko)

Mike Haid

CARMINE & VINNY APPICE DRUM WARS: THE ULTIMATE BATTLE

DVD LEVEL: ALL \$17.99

★★★★★



In perhaps the greatest mockumentary since *This Is Spinal Tap*, the brothers Appice challenge each other to a no-holds-barred drum battle for the right to pronounce the family name, loser be damned. Carmine (Vanilla Fudge, Rod Stewart, Cactus) and Vinny (Black Sabbath, Dio) play similarly primitive (by today's standards) rock 'n' roll drum styles, as witnessed by their duet on "The Ocean" (joined by Alphonso Johnson and Jennifer Batten). The Appices also trade fours and perform some blistering solos. Through archival footage and extensive interviews, all is revealed—maybe too much.

(MVD) Ken Micallef



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And for weekly reviews of even more new releases, check out the blog pages at moderndrummer.com and at the MD Myspace page.

