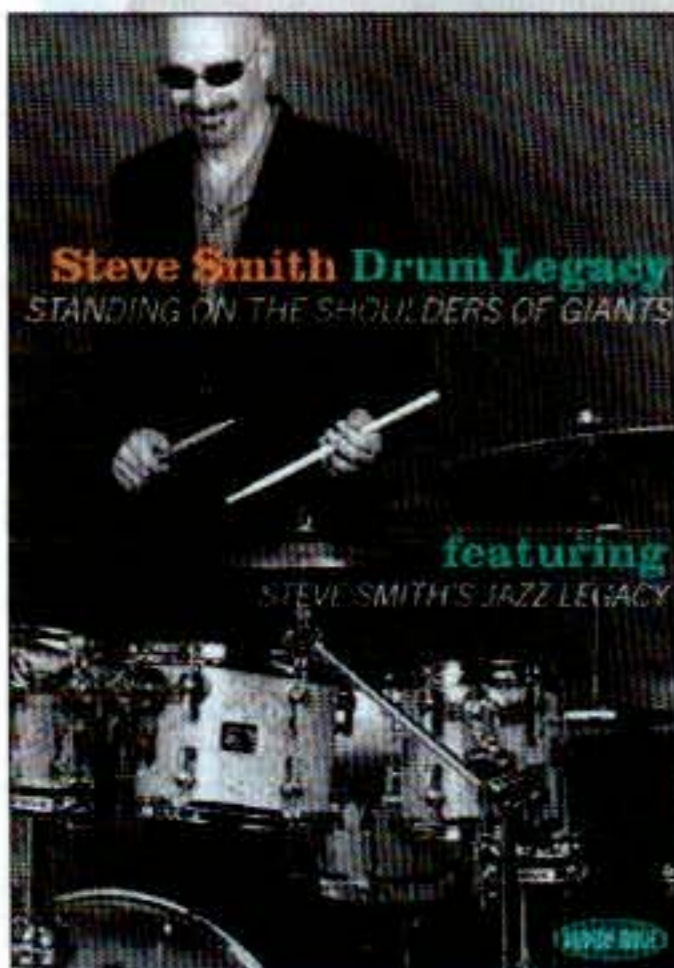


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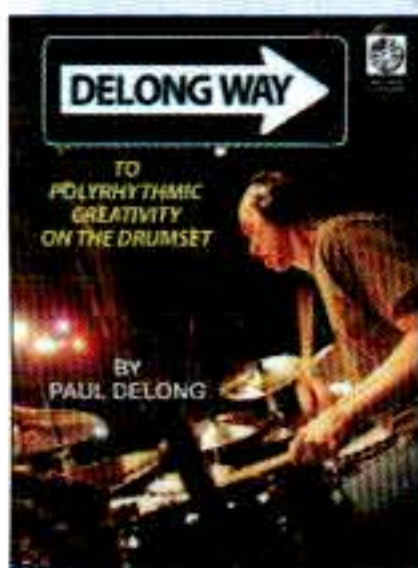
STEVE SMITH DRUM LEGACY STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

★★★★★

DVD LEVEL: ALL \$39.95

Since his days with Journey, Steve Smith has emerged as a genuine educator and champion of the art of jazz drumming. Smith's 2006 Modern Drummer Festival performance is at the core of this set, comprising two DVDs and a CD—but that's just the beginning here. Famed jazz drum educator John Riley then interviews Steve as the pair analyzes each performance. And Riley and Smith's enlightening conversations about Max, Elvin, and Tony are alone

worth the admission price. Rounding out the package are a Smith master class, live footage, an e-book in PDF form, and a live CD of Smith's band. A highly recommended, instructive package. (Hudson Music) **Martin Patmos**



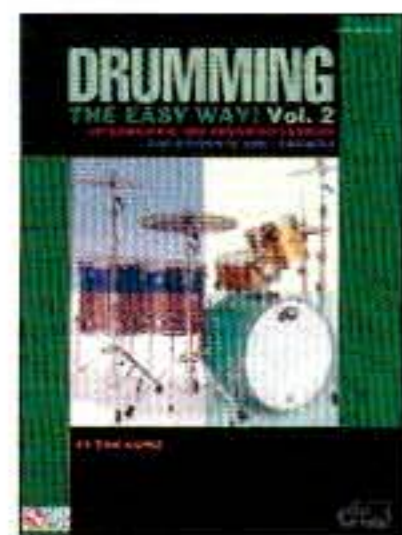
DELONG WAY TO POLYRHYTHMIC CREATIVITY ON THE DRUMSET BY PAUL DELONG

★★★★★

BOOK/CD LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED \$29.95

When you really dig into it, the variety of polyrhythms is endless—but how many are practical and musically applicable? In this excellent book, Paul DeLong takes a look at the three most common and useful

polyrhythms: six against four, three against four, and four against three. Not content to merely demonstrate how these interlock, DeLong examines each thoroughly, exploring their use over the spectrum of the kit and in different styles. Often this is done by analyzing the playing of masters such as Tony Williams or Bill Stewart, an important element to understanding polyrhythms in a musical context. Well written and thought-out, this book is sure to challenge and inspire. (www.myspace.com/pauldelong) **Martin Patmos**



DRUMMING THE EASY WAY! VOL. 2 BY TOM HAPKE

BOOK/CD LEVEL: ALL \$17.95

★★★★★

Learning advanced fills and beats can be frustrating for any drummer, no matter how long you've been playing. Tom Hapke's *Drumming The Easy Way! Vol. 2* will help alleviate the frustration. The clearly written 86 pages have only two bars per line and include some stickings as well as brief text about the following lesson. This

makes it easy to work through while sitting behind the kit. The book starts out with simple crash cymbal, ride, kick, and snare exercises, then quickly moves on to 16th-note triplet fills and dotted 8th-note beats—and that's just in the first ten pages. Hapke includes everything from stick independence solos to nine stroke-roll fills, as well as some really hip grooves. And let's not forget the ever-helpful included CD. (Cherry Lane) **Fran Azzarto**



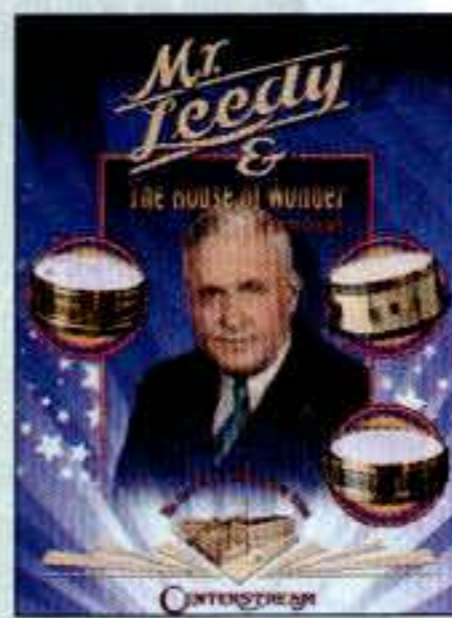
THE BEAT: A GUIDE TO LEARNING FEATURING ALEXANDRA

DVD LEVEL: ALL \$12

★★★★★

Veteran traps drummer and educator Alexandra, hailing from Mexico City and LA, has put together a powerful DVD.

Alexandra presents straight-ahead warm-ups and notation instruction, reading charts as she blazes through mambo, salsa, songo, samba, and bossa nova rhythms. A gifted left-handed drummer, Alexandra demonstrates coordination and polyrhythms with ease, and is a real inspiration. (www.SolstarRecords.com) **David Licht**



MR. LEEDY & THE HOUSE OF WONDER BY HARRY CANGANY

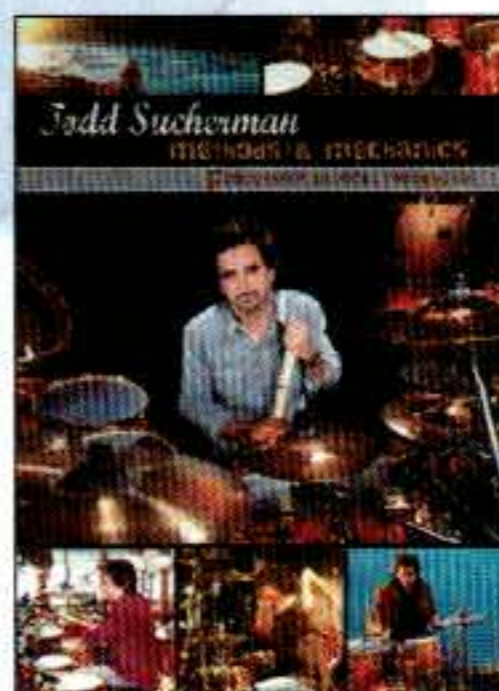
★★★★★

BOOK LEVEL: ALL \$24.95

The Leedy drum company was at the forefront of drum manufacturing and design during much of the early 20th century. In his new book, *MD* drum historian Harry Cangany takes us on tour of Mr. Leedy's world, showing the business and the people who were involved. Although the firsthand commentary is a bit romanticized, it's nonetheless a simple and engaging presentation suitable for stu-

dents and adults alike. The wealth of photographs from the factory is particularly illuminating. Vintage drum fans and history buffs will find much of this fascinating. (Centerstream)

Martin Patmos



TODD SUCHERMAN METHODS & MECHANICS

★★★★★

DVD (2) LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE TO ADVANCED \$29.95

Styx drumming great Todd Sucherman earns the rank of master drummer with this creative, entertaining, and artistically produced instructional package. The well-planned format begins with Sucherman's advanced rudimental practice routine, covering a variety of traditional and hybrid rudimental exercises, which he later applies creatively to the drumset. Sucherman performs

impressive solos in jazz, rock, and Latin styles, and plays along to tracks by Styx, Taylor Mills, and fusion violinist Jerry Goodman, dissecting and explaining his techniques and concepts from each performance. Lots of real-world advice for the aspiring pro, and artistically creative performance footage, are strategically placed in this lengthy package to keep things interesting.

(www.altitudedigital.com) **Mike Haid**

ELECTRO-DRUMMING

by Zach Danziger

NEW ORDER LIVE IN GLASGOW

This double DVD captures the essence of the hugely influential Manchester-based electro/post-punk band New Order. The first disc is a concert from 2006, but it's the second volume here, featuring cool, rare footage dating back to the early '80s, that truly inspires.

STEPHEN MORRIS was always into combining live drums with electronic kits ranging from Simmons pads and modules to Roland V-Drums, often layering them on top of sequences. It might sound like a contradiction, but there always seems to be a "sloppy precision" to his playing, more so in the early days of the group, which I really liked. Morris's insistent, machine-like grooves on tracks like "The Him" reveal a drum programmer's sensibility, and provide evidence of his place as one of the pioneering drummers attempting to sound like a machine. In fact, it would be easy to see some of Morris's driving patterns as precursors to the programmed hardstep drum 'n' bass beats of UK masterminds like Ed Rush, Ray Keith, and Dillinja. This is a very cool compilation. (Rhino)



New Order live, circa 1980. Notice Stephen Morris's use of Syndrums.

Zach Danziger is a sought-after drummer/composer steeped in the marriage of acoustic and electronic drumming. He's played with Wayne Krantz, Mariah Carey, Primal Scream, and Michel Camilo, among many others, as well as at the Modern Drummer Festival, and has worked on a number of high-profile soundtracks such as *Oceans 11*, *Iron Man* and *Sex And The City*.

