

# BUCKETS OF FUN

Stacy Werner – December 2024

## WHERE TO FIND BUCKETS?

- School – cafeteria, custodian, shop teacher
- Food Services – ice cream shop, caterers, bakery
- Industrial – hardware store, paint store, Uline

## Volume Control

- Dampen the Sound on Bucket:
  - Foam on top, sit spots, hand towel, cut up yoga mat
- Dampen the Sound on Sticks:
  - Pencil grips, pencil eraser toppers, drum stick dampener
- Other Stick Options:
  - Recorder cleaning sticks, unsharpened pencils, pool noodles, fingers/hands
- Keep Sticks LOW
- Headphones Ready for Sensitive Ears
- Use Smaller Buckets

## Playing Positions

- RESTING POSITION
  - Hands off sticks and bucket.
- PRACTICE POSITION
  - Use fingers to practice.
- READY POSITION
  - Sticks held above bucket, ready for signal to start playing.

**IF YOU PLAY BEFORE I SAY  
I'LL TAKE YOUR STICKS - AWAY!**

## Unit or Embedded Approach

**Unit Approach** – Teach the bucket drums as a standalone unit. This approach allows you to introduce many musical skills quickly and then transfer those skills to other areas.

**Embedded Approach** – Teach brief lessons to gradually introduce skills. Can be used to reinforce what concepts/skills students are already working on.

## Getting Started

### Drumsticks

To hold drumsticks, (or wooden spoons) pinch the stick between your thumb and the knuckle of your pointer finger. Loosely wrap the other three fingers around the stick.



Don't use a fist grip.



Don't use a pointer grip.

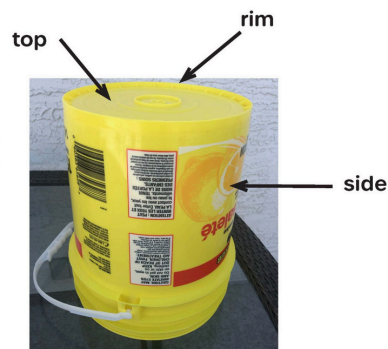


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### Parts of the Bucket



click sticks



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### Reading the Score

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## Easy Warm-Ups

- Simple Echo Patterns
  - Work through each part of the bucket. Once secure, introduce echo patterns that move to different parts of the bucket within the same rhythm.
- Eight Beat Blitz
  - Use the pattern below and switch between using top, rim, and side of bucket.  
8 beats R Hand, 8 Beats L Hand. 8 Beats Alternate, 8 Beats Both Hands
- 8-4-2-1
  - 8 beats R Side, 8 beats L Side, 8 beats R Top, 8 beats L Top
  - 8 beats R Rim, 8 beats L Rim , 8 beats Tap Sticks (R hand top),
  - 8 beats Tap Sticks (L hand on top)
  - \*Try again with 4 beats, then 2, and 1!\*

## Pizza Hut

1. **F** **C** **F** Camp Song

A Piz - za Hut, A Piz - za Hut, a Ken - tuck - y Fried Chick - en and a Piz - za Hut. A

Piz - za Hut, A Piz - za Hut, a Ken - tuck - y Fried Chick - en and a Piz - za Hut. Mc -

Don - ald's, Mc - Don - ald's, a Ken - tuck - y Fried Chick - en and a Piz - za Hut. Mc -

Don - ald's, Mc - Don - ald's, a Ken - tuck - y Fried Chick - en and a Piz - za Hut!

2.

**Teaching Suggestions:** Teach the song by rote. This song can be sung as a round and is an opportunity for students to create their own verses.

**Bucket Drumming:** Once students are secure singing the round, have one group keep the beat on the top of the buckets for the first section. Students click sticks on the second section. Try it as a round with the bucket drums playing along.

## Improvise

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**4/4**

No set plans, go with the flow.

Lis - ten to the rhy - thm and then you go!

1. Say a 2 or 4 beat rhythm.
2. One, two, ready go!
3. Try with body percussion first, then transfer to bucket drums.
4. Students improvise until they see you move hands/sticks to shoulders.
5. Add a backing track!

## Bucket Drumming Basics

- A sequenced approach to gradually add in more complexity.
- Quick reading exercises to get students familiar with bucket drumming staff.
- Can be used as warm-ups, integrated within your program, or part of a unit.
- The unit on MPO also includes composition activities.

### Side and Top

click  $\frac{4}{4}$

rim  $\frac{4}{4}$

top  $\frac{4}{4}$

side  $\frac{4}{4}$

arranged D. Gagné

R L R L R L R L

R L R L R L R L

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### Rim and Click

click  $\frac{4}{4}$

rim  $\frac{4}{4}$

top  $\frac{4}{4}$

side  $\frac{4}{4}$

R L R L R L R L

R L R L R L R L

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### Top Click Side

click  $\frac{4}{4}$

rim  $\frac{4}{4}$

top  $\frac{4}{4}$

side  $\frac{4}{4}$

RL RL RL RL RL RL RL RL

RL RL RL

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## Pepperoni Pizza – Body Percussion

**A**

Pat

Stomp

4/4

Let's make

pep-per-o-ni piz-za!

piz-za pie!

R L R L R L

R L R

R L

R L

**B**

Snap

Clap

4/4

Shape the dough and add the sauce and meat on top and

moz-za-rel-la cheese!

R L R L R L R L

R L R L R

R L R L

**C**

Snap

Clap

Pat

Stomp

4/4

p

I

Z Z

A

**Rondo Form:  
A B A C A**

### First Experience – Body Percussion

1. Teach each section by rote, phrase by phrase.
2. Introduce the body percussion patterns alongside the words of the poem.
3. Practice performing the body percussion without reciting the words.
4. Explore the piece in Rondo Form (A-B-A-C-A).

## Pepperoni Pizza – Bucket Drums

**A**

Top: pep-per-o-ni piz-za! piz-za pie!  
R L R L R L R L R

Side: Let's make Let's make  
B B B B

**B**

Click Sticks: moz-za-rel-la cheese!  
R L R L R L R L

Rim: Shape the dough and add the sauce and meat on top and  
R L R L R L R L

**C**

Click Sticks: p  
B

Rim: I  
B

Top: Z Z  
B B

Side: A  
B

### Second Experience – Bucket Drumming

1. Transfer the body percussion patterns to bucket drums.
2. Work through each section, phrase by phrase.
3. Play on the buckets while saying the words, then play again without the words.
4. Try performing in Rondo Form (A-B-A-C-A).

### Third Experience – Create a B Section:

1. Use the "Create a Pizza Pattern" worksheet.
2. Brainstorm a list of "pizza ingredients," focusing on words with 1, 2, or 4 sounds. Have students list and sort these ingredients.
3. Students can work individually, in pairs, or in small groups to create a 4-beat pattern. They can use the chart on the worksheet to write out their patterns.
4. Decide on the method of playing the patterns: buckets, body percussion, or other non-pitched percussion instruments.

Final Form: Part A (Pepperoni Pizza Poem), Student Creation, Part A, Student Creation, etc.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## CREATE A PIZZA PATTERN

- Brainstorm Pizza Ingredients

One Sound:

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Two Sounds:

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Four Sounds:

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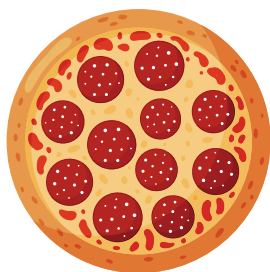
- Write Your Pattern on the Chart Below:



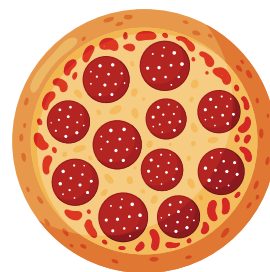
Ingredient: →

Rhythm: →

Instrument/  
Part of Bucket →

## Prepare To Play Your Pattern



## Pop and Holiday Playalongs

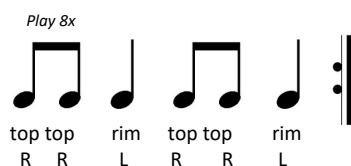
### Holiday Playalongs

- Go to “Instruments” then “Bucket Drums”. Select “Holiday Ideas”.
- Include video demos and multiple levels of playing.

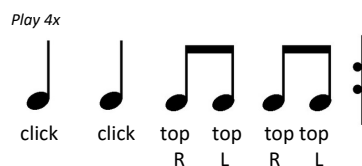
### Radioactive – Bucket Drums

Introduction: 32 Beats

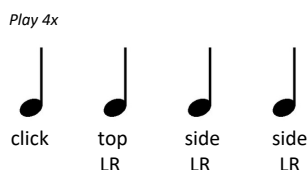
**A**



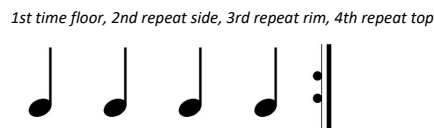
**B**



**C**



**D**

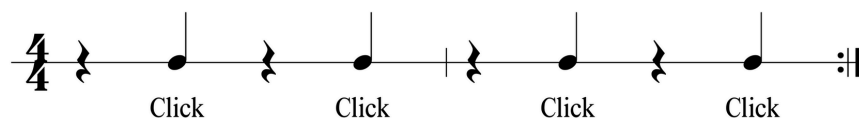


Form:

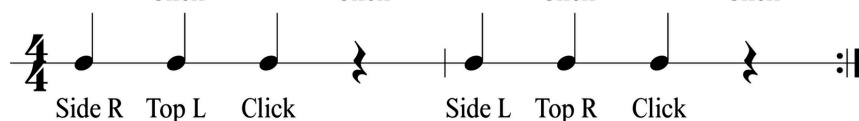


### Sunroof – Bucket Drums

Intro:



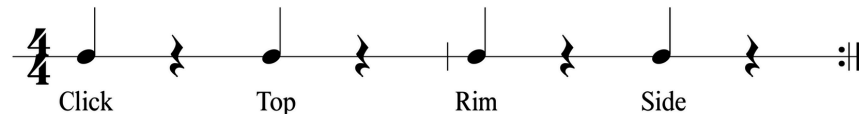
**A**



**B**



**C**



Form: Intro (4x), A (4x), B (4x), C (4x), A (8x), B (4x), C (4x), A (4x), B (8x)

### Questions?

- Wednesday Webinars
- Musicplay Newsletter
- Musicplay Teachers Facebook
- Musicplay YouTube
- Musicplay Instagram



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