



PERCUSSIVE PERSPECTIVE

◀◀ **Front ensemble** ▶▶
Perspective

Jaylan Glenn

Front Technique

Two Mallet Grip

Setting up the grip starts with the “front fulcrum”:

1. First, place the mallet on the first knuckle of your index finger, followed by the thumb. The shape should be similar to a lowercase “t”. Examples are shown in figures 1 and 2 below.



Figure 1



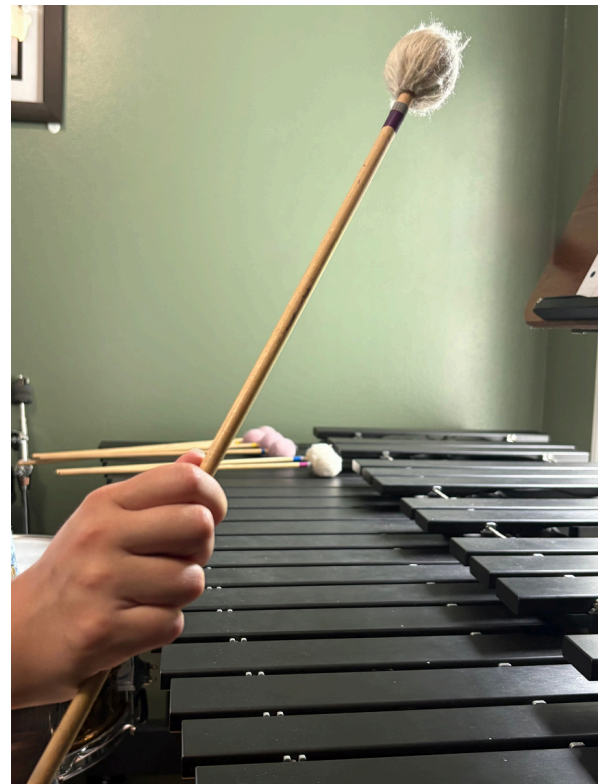
Figure 2

Applying the fingers correctly allows the front fulcrum to gain control over the amount of pressure we add to the mallet, which in turn will allow optimal mobility.



2. Gently wrap your middle, ring, and pinky finger around the mallet, leaving about a half-inch of the butt at the bottom of the hand.

3. This is how your hand should look once you're set: with an inch to half an inch of butt showing behind your hand.

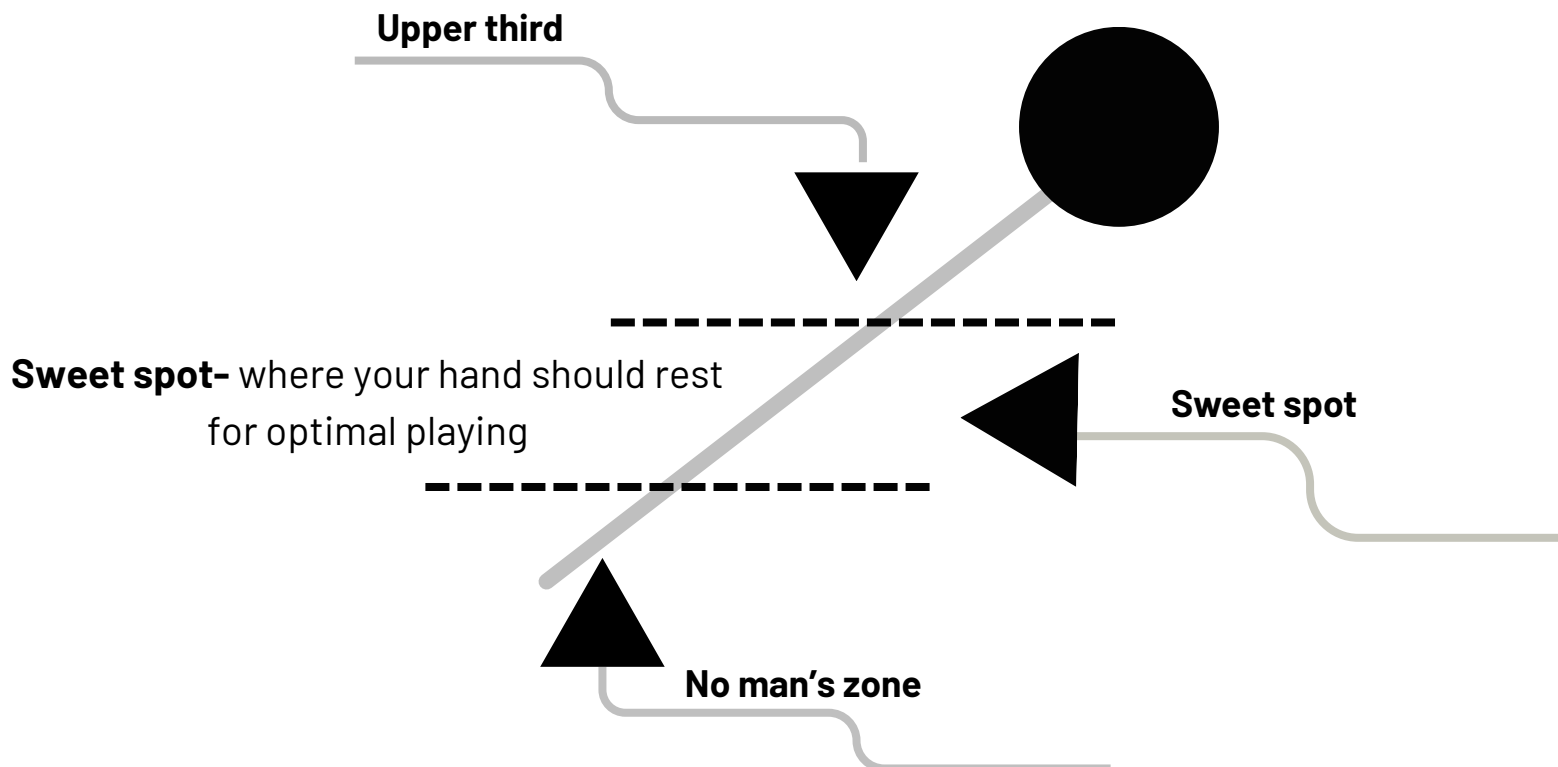


Our "Fulcrum Focus" will be the middle finger and ring finger, this can be thought of as "spidey hands". The pinky, and front fulcrum are simply along for the ride, keeping your mallet within your grip!

Hand Placement

Upper third- where your mallet head connects

Upper third



Sweet spot- where your hand should rest for optimal playing

Sweet spot

No man's zone

No man's zone- an inch of "the butt" left out the back of the hand for proper weight distribution.

Mind Muscle Connection

-M.M.C.

The mind muscle connection is a phrase used in the body building community to describe the neurological to physical connection that helps the lifter (or in this instance, the player) connect with the desired contracted muscle.

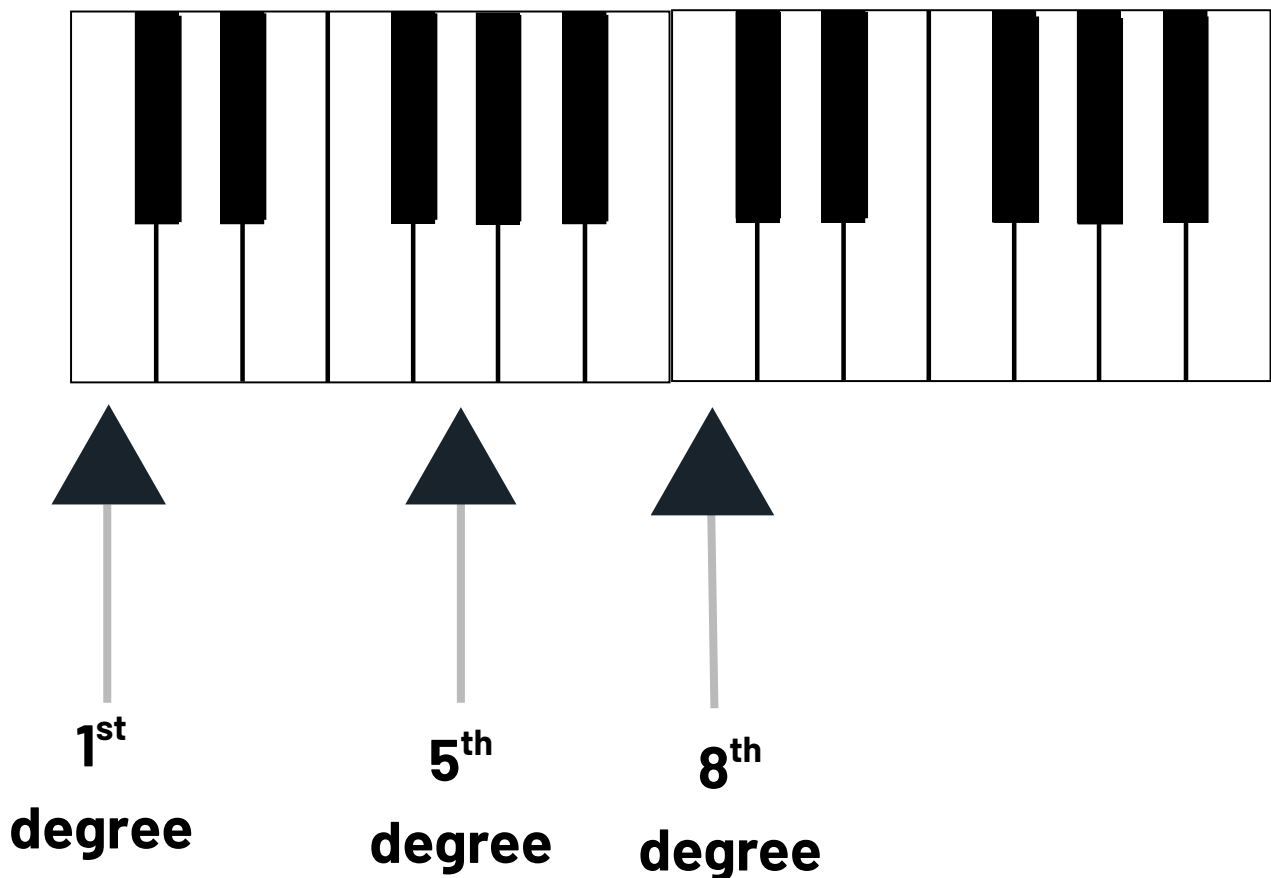
Using the M.M.C. we can focus on the brachialis muscle to initiate each stroke.

- Brachialis muscle is the muscle of the upper limb, otherwise known as the forearm, this muscle is a prime flexor located at the elbow joint. This muscle is primarily responsible for putting down and picking up the mallet/stick.

Proper use of the grip, careful placement of the hand on the mallet, the correct initiation of the stroke, followed by total M.M.C. to initiate velocity is the formula to a full, warm, robust sound.

Body Placement:

- The player should always place themselves in the center of the keyboard in most implications.
- scales should be played from the 5th degree of the scale in single octaves or in front of the 8th degree in a two octave scale.



Levels of Listening

Level 1: Listening to your own sound production and constantly maintaining alignment with musical standards

Level 2: Listening to your own subsection and maintaining alignment with musical standards

Level 3: Listening to the battery ensemble in regards to timing, clarity, dynamics, balance, and blend while maintaining alignment with musical standards

Level 4: Listening to the entire ensemble, incorporating levels 1-3 to enhance the full ensemble's timing, balance, blend, rhythmic interpretation, expression, range of dynamics, and phrasing.



Front Ensemble

Warm Ups

Caterpillar

Jaylan C. Glenn

To be played in every key



5 begins new key signature(F maj)



8 begins new key signature(Bb maj)



Played with 2 mallets, and inner 2 mallets

Legato

Produces fluid, continuous motion between notes

- “Legato Strokes” should be played with fluidity just as it is heard. This stroke type has weight behind the stroke, the player should rely on the applied 10% of the arm as well as full range of motion from the wrist to produce a warm in depth sound.

Velocity

Velocity (noun) - The speed of something in a given direction

Velocity in the realm of percussion in most idioms means larger, warmer, full sounds.

Using our stroke types effectively we can also introduce speed (or velocity) to make our sound more articulated. See “Velociraptor” on page 51 for an example of how velocity can be used.

When playing “Velociraptor,” make an effort to move quickly even when the rhythms are slow. The training of the fast twitch muscle fibers similar to weight lifting allows the body to practice traveling quickly.

Teaching the body how to move with enough energy to produce a full sound is a learned, practiced skill that will take time but will produce incomparable results from the perspective of articulation and sound production.

Velociraptor

Jaylan C. Glenn

played in each key signature

5

9

4 beats between each key signature

The Breakdown

Jaylan C. Glenn

Continue in the circle of 5th's

Marimba

4

7

next key signature after 4 beats

The Breakdown pt. 2

Green scale #2

Jaylan C. Glenn

♩ = 120



55

2



The Breakdown pt. 3

Rhythm check

Jaylan C. Glenn

♩ = 120

4

7

9

r . . . r l r l r . .

r l r l r . . r l r l

r . . r l r l

Played in each key signature
chromatically after 4 beats

Green Beans

Jaylan C. Glenn

$\text{♩} = 120$

Marimba

3

5

7

r l r

Staccato

Performed with each note sharply detached or separated from the others.

- “Staccato Strokes” otherwise referred to as “Piston Strokes” or “Full Strokes” should be played with lots of energy. Using velocity, this stroke type is used for articulation and producing a robust sound. Players should approach this stroke similar to striking a fly(for the down stroke speed), and lifting off the played surface quickly like touching a hot stove(for the upstroke speed) to accurately achieve the desired sound.

Honey Bee

Jaylan C. Glenn



3



5



7



9



11



Honey Bee

Jaylan C. Glenn



3



5



8



10



Triplet variations

Jaylan C. Glenn

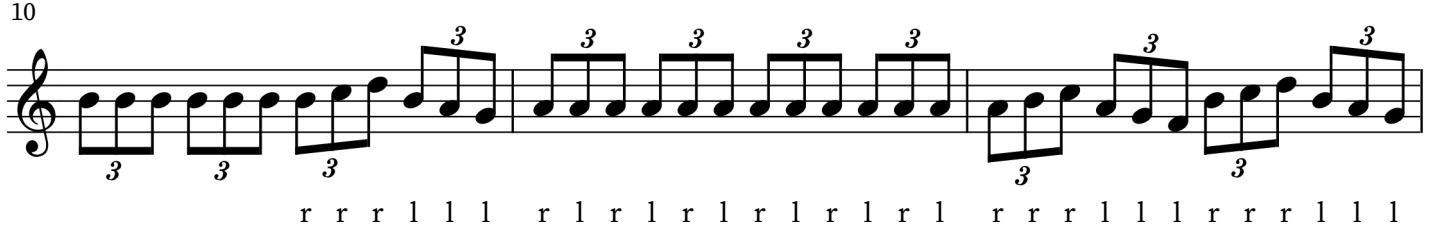
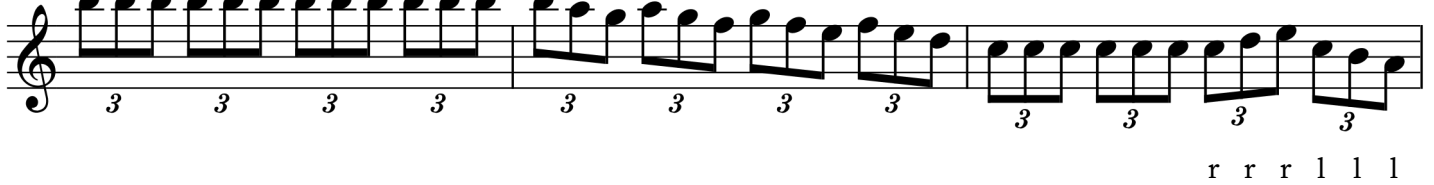
Variation 1



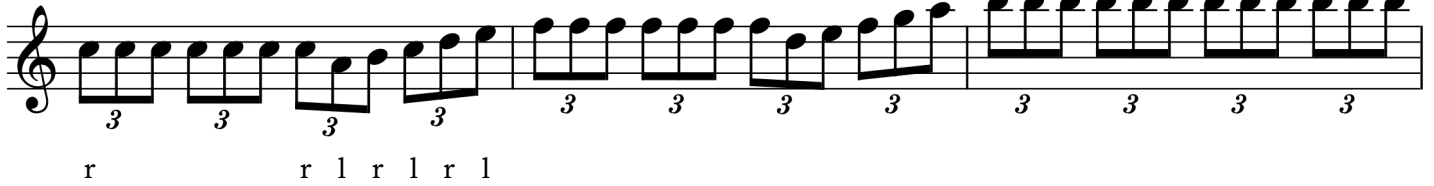
Variation 2



Variation 3



Variation 4



Variation 5



Triplet variations 2

Jaylan C. Glenn

Variation 6

4

Variation 7

6

8

Variation 8

11

Variation 9

14

Variation 10

18

Four Mallet Grip

We will use Stephens four mallet grip throughout the front ensemble! Below you we will quickly break down our grip.

1. To start you will need to place the "butt" or rear of the mallet in the center of your palm. Then, allow the mallet to lie on the first knuckle of the index finger while your hand is in the shape of a hand shake. Your thumb muscle on the inside of your hand will act as your first "leverage point" to help control the mallet.

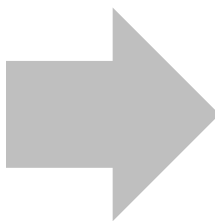


2. Next, place your thumb print on the mallet once again making a lowercase "t" with gentle pressure. Similar to our two mallet grip, we want our pressure to be loose enough to have without any uncomfortable sensation. We will still have a "hand shake" shape!

3. Following that we will place our middle finger on the butt of the mallet, this contact point is very important as the middle finger is an important "leverage point" for our rotations and block chord playing styles.



4. Lastly, we will place the second mallet between the middle and ring finger. The ring finger and pinky will gently wrap around with just enough pressure to have control, we will have about half an inch of residual mallet coming from the back end of our hand!



Checkmate

Jaylan C. Glenn



Rotations:

4 1 3 2

3 2 4 1

13 24(left to right)

42 31(right to left)

Big Blocks

Pedal Master

Jaylan C. Glenn

Marimba

$\text{♩} = 105$

4

8

12

16

20

The score is written for a Marimba in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 105 beats per minute. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff (measures 1-4) features a continuous eighth-note pattern of chords. The second staff (measures 5-8) continues this pattern. The third staff (measures 9-12) introduces a change in the chord sequence. The fourth staff (measures 13-16) continues the new sequence. The fifth staff (measures 17-20) continues the pattern. The sixth staff (measures 21-24) concludes the piece with a final chord and a fermata.

Rotations:

1234

4321

41 32(out to in)

32 41(in to out)

yes, the chord changed

Big Blocks

Pedal Master

Jaylan C. Glenn

$\text{♩} = 105$



6



12



17



20



Big Blocks

Whitley Capps

♩ = 80

Piano

Am G

Optional Bass line

Optional Arpeggios

5 F Em

9 Dm Gm

13 Cm⁷ Am

17 $B\flat$ C

21 Dm A_m

Big Blocks

Pedal Master

Jaylan C. Glenn

Drums

$\text{♩} = 105$

4

8

12

15

19

22

The drum score for 'Big Blocks' is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 105 BPM. The notation is as follows:

- Staff 1:** Starts with a snare hit, followed by a pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes on the snare and tom, with cymbal and hi-hat accents.
- Staff 2:** Continues the pattern with more complex snare and tom rhythms.
- Staff 3:** Features a series of cymbal and hi-hat patterns.
- Staff 4:** Includes a double bar line, indicating a section change.
- Staff 5:** Continues with snare and tom patterns.
- Staff 6:** Features a series of cymbal and hi-hat patterns.
- Staff 7:** Ends with a double bar line.