



BUILDING FROM THE BASICS

Once your student has the basic set, then start building out from there.

I would suggest staying with the same brand, so the student can become more versed with the color system. Add out from the basic. I would suggest add the extremes in the “hardness/softness” prism and fill in.

Specialty mallets and sticks (bass drum marching quads, etc.) will be provided by St. Croix.



PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE
ANY QUESTIONS.

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CRUSADER

PERCUSSION



❖ MALLETS ❖

A Guide to Purchasing Mallets for your
Crusader Band Member.

General information...

Most stick & mallet companies are comparable. I have selected a few brands I like and find to be a great value.

All mallet companies have a code system to tell the "hardness" to "softness" of each mallet series. This characteristic of the mallet gives a very distinctive sound (very articulate to warm/mellow, respectively). The code is NOT universal between stick companies; however, each company is fairly consistent across their respective sticks and mallets (a "yellow" vibe mallet will give a consistent tone as a "yellow" xylophone mallet).

Mallets may be purchased separately or in a pack (series). You may purchase them at any music store, online or through SCLHS Music Department. Shop around and see where you can find the best deal. Usually heavier mallets are made of higher quality material and will last longer.

Students should have a secure "carrying" case for their growing arsenal of sticks and mallets. A stick bag is a cloth bag that has built-in sleeves or pockets to keep sticks secure and organized. Stick bags range in price and size. Plan for growth. The stick companies also manufacture stick bags.

Mallet handles are made from a variety of materials. At the high school level, I would prefer birch handles. Rattan is a high quality xylophone stick material but can warp if exposed to moisture.



Mallets can be confusing...

PUFAHL TOP PICKS

Mike Balter Mallets

Least expensive yet high quality and can be used in a variety of applications. These will serve your student well. I like the Ensemble Series, in general, and the Pro Vibe Series for vibraphone mallets.

Vic Furth Sticks and Mallets

Excellent Quality at a slightly more expensive price. We will use these for marching. They can take a bit of a beating.

Encore Sticks and Mallets

Some of the finest sticks and mallets, but these come at a higher price. Students notice these sticks are a little heavier than Mike Balter mallets.

BASIC STICK BAG (a suggestion)

- 1 set of snare drum sticks
 - Vic Furth SD1
- 1 set of vibe mallets
 - Mike Balter - Pro Vibe Dark Blue (not light blue)
- 1 set of marimba mallets
 - Mike Balter - Ensemble Dark Blue (good for sus. cymbal too)
- 1 set of xylophone mallets (hard plastic)
 - Mike Balter Unwound Series black

THINGS TO AVOID

Generally - purchasing a pre-packaged stick bag. Not all are bad, but allow yourself to be selective. Sometimes music stores, with percussion teachers, put together a bag. You might consider these.

I would avoid two-stage fiberglass mallets/sticks. They don't last as long as other mallets.



BASIC MIKE BALTER COLOR CODE

YELLOW	HARD	ARTICULATE
GREEN	NOT AS HARD	WILL CUT THROUGH A BAND
DARK BLUE	SOFTER	WARM YET CUTS
RED	SOFTER	WARM
LIGHT BLUE	SOFTER YET	VERY WARM MELLOW
ORANGE	VERY SOFT	MELLOW