

How To Fake the Bodhrán

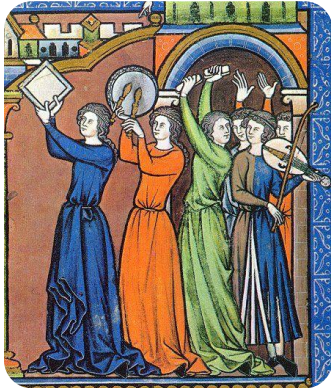
Ambra Michelli | Samantha A. Moore

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The Bodhrán is a simple frame drum, traditionally of wooden body and a goat-skin head played with a tipper, beater, or cipin drives the soul to foot stomping speeds the blood. As a preface,

Frame Drums In Period

Some examples of frame drums played with wooden “beaters” throughout the middle ages/world:



David Returns Victorious
Maciejowski Bible,
Leaf 29 (DOUBLE BEATER EXAMPLE)



Miriam and Israelite women celebrate the Exodus from Egypt



The Luttrell Psalter, British Library
Add MS 42130 medieval
manuscript, 1325



Goddess Cybele, Found in Rome, circa
2nd century CE. Metropolitan



Monastery Stavronikita, Athos. Part V
(HORN AND DRUM EXAMPLE)



Goddess Kybele sitting with
panther on lap, Hermes Kadmilos
and Hekate on the pillars - at the
Pergamon Museum, Berlin



1338-44, French. From The Romanace
of Alexander; fol 127v Musician with
diagonally striped cotehardie, black
belt, shoes and pouch, parti-colored
hose



Image from article by Edith K. Prideaux. - The Archaeological Journal Volume 72. 2nd Series volume
22. London: The Council of the Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.
(HORN AND DRUM EXAMPLE)

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In the *Libro de Buen Amor* (the Book of Good Love), a 14th century semi-biographical collection of romantic escapades written by Juan Ruiz, the Archpriest of Hita, highlights how a male dancer accompanies his own dance. For examples of men and women (or women alone) playing frame drums, see also the doctorate dissertation on “Frame Drums in the Medieval Iberian Peninsula”, written by by Mauricio Molina, the City University of New York (excerpt below).

https://books.google.com/books?id=1hsE_kG53NgC&pg=PA223&lpg=PA223&dq=documentation+on+medieval+drumming&source=bl&ots=ROecobP1po&sig=vf1jicPaRfMtKICZmblohKqizSU&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiDmMiL3ODQAhVICcAKHakhAKgQ6AEIJDAC#v=onepage&q&f=false

4.1 THE PERFORMANCE OF A SINGLE FRAME DRUM AND GROUPS OF FRAME DRUMS OF THE SAME TYPE

Literary and iconographical evidence suggest that singers of both genders utilized the frame drum to accompany their songs and/or dances. In Christian literature, the best documentation of such practice can be found in verse 470 of the *Libro de buen amor*, where a songstress (*cantadera*) is described accompanying her own singing and dancing with a *pandero*.²⁶ Similarly, it is described in the *zejel* 167 of Ibn Quzman how a male dancer accompanied his own dance with a *duff*.²⁷ Meanwhile, a tradition of accompanying Arabic poetic singing with the square frame drum, a custom that has survived in modern-day Morocco, was also well documented by contemporaneous Islamic texts produced outside of the Peninsula.²⁸

The two instruments playing in ensemble are also mentioned in historical chronicles. For example, we find in the *Vida do Infante do Fernando* that women accompanied a bagpiper with *adufes e pandeiros* during a procession performed in 1482 to commemorate the battle of Toro,⁴² and in the *Historia de los reyes católicos* that exiled Jews played their *panderos* and *adufes* on their way out Castile in 1492.⁴³

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Tips To Remember

- Play above your left (off) hand
- Point the pencil at yourself parallel to the drum
- When in doubt, find the down beat

Where To Get Your Own



Musiciansfriend.com

<http://www.percussionsource.com/>



http://www.ebay.com/itm/like/221973116507?lpid=82&chn=ps&ul_noapp=true

And Always, Google is Your Friend

Great “Next Step” Resources

Bodhran Technique 1o1 (Tuning, holding, crossbars and more):

Chris Weddle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXI9Eioekf8>

Triplets:

Chris Weddle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INi-CAHBf3g>

Break Out of Your Rhythm Rut:

Michelle Stewart

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rlcli4WqGck>

Higher level (but well broken down):

Ronan O Snodaigh

This will show you an excellent Jig and “Double beater’ technique and appropriate rhythms:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Kks-6c_tHA