

## Section Eight

### The Back Line

The Back Line is the term used to refer to the musical equipment. As a stagehand you will be required to identify the parts of the instruments and assemble them.

We will start this discussion with the drum kit.

#### Five Piece Drum Kit



When naming a drum kit, in this case a five piece, the name comes from counting the individual drums. Do not count the cymbals. In this case we have the following drums.

1. Kick Drum
2. Snare Drum
3. Rack Tom One
4. Rack Tom Two
5. Floor Tom

In addition to the drums a drum kit has a varying number of cymbals, which include the hi-hat, ride and crash cymbals. Each of these cymbals has stands. Also there is a drum throne, which is seat for the drummer to sit on.

## Kick Drum



The Kick drum is the big drum that sits on the floor. The diameters of the kick drum range from 16," which is rare, to 26". The more common sizes are 22" and 24". The kick drum has a kick drum pedal that mounts on the backside of the drum. Many times the front of the drum will have a hole cut out in the head. This hole allows a microphone to be placed inside the kick drum.

## Kick Drum Pedal



## Snare Drum



The snare drum sits at the backside of the drum kit on a tripod stand. The drummer usually has the snare between his legs. This allows one leg to reach the kick drum and the other to reach the hi-hat stand.

## Snare Drum Stand



## Hi Hat Cymbals



## Hi Hat Stand



The hi-hat stand is the piece of hardware in a drum kit that gives most newcomers the hardest time learning how to assemble. At the bottom of the stand are the foot pedal and two legs, which support the stand. A steel rod goes up through the center of the stand and is connected to the foot pedal. At the top of this rod is a mechanism called the clutch.

The clutch holds the top cymbal. The clutch is adjustable allowing the drummer to set the height between the upper and lower hi hat cymbals.

## Rack Tom Toms



The Rack Toms sit above the kick drum. In our example of the five-piece drum kit we have two rack toms. However some kits may have as many as six or more rack toms that vary in size.

## Floor Tom Toms



Floor toms sit on the floor by retractable legs. The floor toms are larger than the rack toms but smaller than the kick drum.

## Cymbals



Cymbals come in a variety of sizes. The major types to remember are the Ride Cymbal and the Crash Cymbal. The ride cymbal will generally be one of the larger cymbals and is much thicker and heavier.

## Cymbal Boom Stand



Cymbals may have straight stands or boom stands. The cymbal will mount over a bolt that has a round felt pad that goes under the cymbal and one that goes over the cymbal and has a wing nut at the top to fasten the cymbal to the stand.

## Drummers Throne



The Drummers throne is the seat that the drummer sits on. It is collapsible and adjustable.

## Bass Guitar



The Bass guitar has four strings on it generally and is connected by a 1/4" instrument cable to a direct box input. The Direct box has a 1/4" output that is then connected to the bass amplifier. The Direct box also has a XLR mic cable output that is connected to the sound console.

## Direct Box



## Bass Amplifier



The bass amplifier is used to amplify the signal of the bass guitar. It may have a direct output on the back of the head. In this case a direct box will not be needed. Some bass players prefer to have their amplifiers signal sent through a microphone instead of a direct box or they may want both a microphone and a direct box.

## Electric Guitar



The electric guitar is the six-string instrument. It connects directly to the guitar amplifier by a 1/4" instrument cable.

## Fender Twin Guitar Amplifier



The Fender twin is a popular amplifier among country artists. When placing the microphone on the amplifier, look in the back and see where the speakers are and place the microphone either in the center of one of the speakers or at an angle that follows the path of the speaker cone of one of the speakers.

## Marshall Guitar Amplifier Head and Cabinets



The Marshall is an extremely popular amplifier for the rock and roll musicians. It comes in a variety of models. However a common setup would have a Marshall head and two speaker cabinets. The speaker cabinets are connected to the back of the head by heavy-duty 1/4" speaker cables. Microphones are then placed on the cabinet in relation to where the speakers are.

## Acoustic Guitar



The acoustic guitar may need to have a microphone placed in front of it and close to the sound hole. Some acoustics have a pickup in them and do not need a microphone. These acoustics however need a direct box to send the signal to the sound console.

## Electronic Keyboard or Synthesizer



The electronic keyboard is connected to a direct box by a 1/4" instrument cable. If you are using a mono setup use the Left output for your cable. Many keyboard players like to use the stereo capability of these keyboards. In this case you would need two direct boxes and cables.