



# FUN WITH DRUMS LESSON PLAN



## “Cajon Basics”

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### **Impact of This Video:**

This video will outline the basic sounds and techniques to playing the cajon. You will be able to play along, count aloud, and understand how to perform basic rhythms. Quality of sound, learning to count, and coordination should be the focus of this lesson. Students without a cajon can practice rhythm and sounds on household items like cardboard boxes or tabletops.

### **Objective:**

To learn about the cajon drum, the basic sounds, and to be able to play basic rhythms on the drum.

### **Resources and Materials:**

A computer, tablet, or phone to view and listen to the video, an empty cardboard box of any size, a cajon drum if one is available.

### **Cajón Overview:**

A cajón is a box-shaped percussion instrument originally from Peru, played by slapping the front or rear faces with the hands, fingers, or sometimes implements such as brushes, mallets, or sticks. Cajons are primarily played in Afro-Peruvian music but has made its way into flamenco and modern music as well.

### **Instrument Family: Percussion**

Place of origin: Peru

Invented: Late 1800s

Related instrument: Cajón de tapeo, Cajón de rumba

Size: around 48 x 30 x 30 cm



### **Exercise: Bass. Tone. Slap.**

**Bass:** is the sound we get out of the cajon using the “meaty” part of our palm.

**Tone:** is the sound we get when we use the fleshy parts of our digits

**Slap:** is the sound we get when we use the fleshy part of our fingertips

### **Exercise: Four on the Floor**

Begin by playing four bass notes (quarter notes) in the center of the drum with the right hand.

Count aloud-1 2 3 4-repeat as needed.

Add the slap sound on count number 4 with the left hand.

Add the slap sound on count 2 and count 4 with the left hand.

Continue to count for four while playing the rhythm as well as play the rhythm without counting.

### **Wrap Up:**

Now that you know the basic sounds and some rhythms to playing the cajon, try practicing on a tabletop, empty cardboard box, or a cajon if you have one. Have fun and be creative. Most anything around the house can be a percussion instrument.