

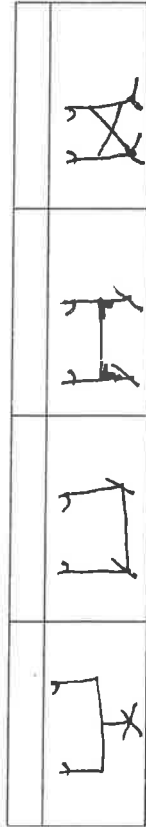
Setting up the Pans

Bring out the stands first, and place them where you will use them. Note that some old stands have higher cross bars, and this means that deeper pans won't fit on them. Check before you swing them up

On the stands the height adjusters are below the pan so they are dangerous to adjust when the pan is swung up. If you have to adjust the height don't over-tighten the screw.

WARNING: Only ever place soprano pans upside down when they are not swung up. Never put them on a hard surface facing up. This can knock the notes out of tune.

The soprano pan cases have breakers in them so the bottom of the pan does not touch the bottom of the case



If the pans are in cases, carry them across to the stand **IN THEIR CASES**, lay case flat on floor or table, and **UNDO ALL THREE TIES**.

if any ties are missing, as you carry a case press the lid to your leg, and this will stop lid and bottom coming apart. If you don't undo all three ties you will rip the strap that is riveted onto the case. To keep cases and their matching fitting lids together put top on case without it clipping it back together while pan is being played.

Lift the pan [which should always face upwards] out of case, hold it between one hand and your thighs. With free hand place the strimmer wire tie onto the stand's hooks. Swop hands to hand it up on the other side.

if you find you have swung the pan the wrong way round, don't unhook it, but turn the whole stand round with the pan swinging from it.

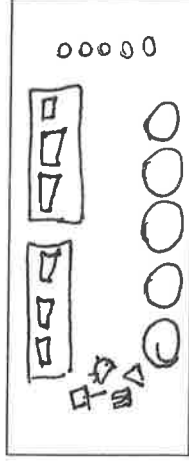
Setting up the Classroom

For a class of 30, use 4/5 pans, 8-10 djembes, 8-10 glocks [or xylophones or chime bar sets] and optionally a group of mixed untuned percussion

For reasons of finance, space musicality, time and pedagogy it is not to appropriate to give every student in a full class a pan of their own.

Create a carousel of 3 or 4 stations so that all students can see each other. Pan players will work in pairs, swopping over every 30- 90 seconds

Being able to see each other helps students become part of the ensemble. Plus, no one can feel threatened by having someone at their back.



How to play steelpans

Only use the correct steelpan sticks. These are made from rubber wrapped around the end of dowel

If the sticks are lost you can wrap lots of rubber bands around a pencil or similar. Never any other type of stick or beater. They will knock the notes out of tune.

Hold the stick loosely between thumb and index and middle finger. Almost let it drop on the notes rather than hit them.

Sopranos [melody] and basses [bass line] usually play one note at a time. Seconds and guitars [high and low chords] usually play two notes together, but don't insist on this.

