

DRUM CHANNEL[®]

LEARN FROM THE BEST™

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

CHAD WACKERMAN

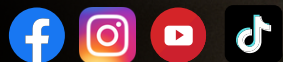
HOW I LEARNED TO PLAY
THE MURRAY SPIVACK METHOD

BLAQUE DYNAMITE

DYNAMIC DRUMMING
LESSONS AND PERFORMANCES

ON THE AIR

LESSONS, CONCERTS
DOCUMENTARIES, JAMS



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COMING SOON:

MIKE MANGINI,
ELECTRONIC DRUM ESSENTIALS

BASIC ROCK DRUMMING CHAD SMITH'S WAY



THE DRUMMERS OF FRANK ZAPPA CHAD, TERRY, CHESTER, RALPH & RUTH



ALEX ACUÑA

APPLYING LATIN RHYTHMS TO THE DRUM SET



CHAD WACKERMAN

THE STUDENTS OF MURRAY SPIVACK



ZIGABOO DOCUMENTARY: THE ORIGINATOR OF NEW ORLEANS FUNKY DRUMMING



BLAQUE DYNAMITE PERFORMS "DIRECTIONS"



LEARN.

HAVE FUN.

FOUNDER'S DOWNBEAT



When I say you can find everything you need to know on DC, this week's featured course is a perfect example.

Chad Wackerman breaks down how he learned from his teacher, Murray Spivack, week by week. Chad studied with Murray every other week for two years and was expected to practice two hours a day. While you don't need to commit to that level, any time you invest will have a huge impact on your playing.

Be sure to check out our show, *The Students of Murray Spivack* —it will give you valuable insights into these lessons and studying with Murray.

This month's featured concert is Blaque Dynamite, absolutely killing it. Listen closely to what he plays and why, all while paying attention to the other musicians.

And just as a behind-the-scenes note: as I write this, I'm watching Mike Mangini film a brand new series of lessons. What an incredible teacher! Keep an eye out for that in the coming months. Beginners, this is a great opportunity to dive right in.

Happy New Year! Lots of exciting content coming to DC!

Don Lombardi

JANUARY 2025

NEW WEEKLY PLAYALONGS

Fri, January 3

We Will Rock You

- Queen



Fri, January 17

U.S. Drag

- Missing Persons



Fri, January 10

Sweet Child O' Mine

- Guns & Roses



Fri, January 31

Mental Hopscotch

- Missing Persons



CHAD WACKERMAN



Chad Wackerman, a world-class drummer and esteemed educator, has built an impressive career spanning decades. He spent seven years working with Frank Zappa and collaborated with artists such as James Taylor, Barbra Streisand, Steve Vai, Allan Holdsworth, Andy Summers, and others.

In **The Murray Spivack Method**, Chad shares the invaluable lessons from his two years of study under the legendary instructor. This course guides you week by week, building the essential foundation for everything you play, expanding your drumming vocabulary, and helping you master fundamental grooves.

What You Will Learn

- How to Hold and Bounce the Stick
- Single Stroke Roll
- Single Stroke Rebound
- 7-Stroke Roll and 5-Stroke Roll
- Roll Practice Routine
- Flams
- Up and Down Strokes
- The Closed Roll
- 7 Basic Strokes
- 7-Stroke Roll - Ruff, Flam Accent
- Flam Tap, Flam Accent Numbers 1 & 2
- Swiss Triplets
- The Flam & Feint/Flamadiddle
- Feint, Flam, and Flamacue
- 4-Stroke Ruff
- Single, Double, Triple Paradiddles
- Single Drag
- Double Drag
- 25th Rudiment
- Single, Double, Triple Ratamacue Compound Stroke
- Single Paradiddle
- Double Paradiddle
- Triple Paradiddle
- Flam Paradiddle
- Double Flam Paradiddle, Flam Paradiddle-Diddle
- Drag Paradiddle & Full Drag
- 4-Stroke Paradiddle
- Triplet Paradiddle
- Single Stroke Exercise
- Modular Drumming



Murray's students are some of the greatest drummers of all time, including Louie Bellson, David Garibaldi, Chad Wackerman, Brooks Wackerman, and Vinnie Colaiuta.



»» Studying with Murray Spivack ««

I was 12 years old when I started studying with Murray. It was a long, long time ago, but what he showed me is what I still practice. Murray only believed in teaching hands and reading. He was a great teacher for reading, and many LA players and players all over the country would come to him for lessons to get their hands straightened out.

When we met for my first lesson, he asked me to play the most basic things. The setup was a practice pad, a mirror, a clock, and a metronome. I thought I could play rolls and paradiddles and things, but in ten minutes, he proved to me quickly what I couldn't play. Before that, I had studied with my father and had taken scattered lessons from various drummers, but it wasn't methodical. It was random. Murray taught me the fundamentals.

Murray showed me a way to play where the outcome of putting in all this work meant that drumming was suddenly easy. I wasn't having to struggle. I wasn't having to work anymore. He had a system that involved a lot of economy of motion and relaxation. One of his mottos was that the faster you play, the more relaxed you have to be, which is the opposite of what everybody does. Everyone pushes and tries to power through, but he said, no, if you play systematically with his system and then go through all these exercises playing relaxed, you will get faster and faster, but you learn to stay at that relaxed feel so you're never sweating. You never have to muscle anything because he had a lot of tricks to get a lot of power without using big arm motions.

Murray taught me that drumming is comprised of four small basic elements. It's single-strokes, or you can call them wrist strokes. The second element is a rebound, where you'd have a wrist and a throw or multiple throws. The third element would be flams. The fourth element is the closed roll. He said anything else you play is just sequences of these things that come before or after. We will get into a few other elements, but as far as what you can play, you can play anything with these four elements.

The only reason I got through playing really loud with Frank Zappa for all those years with 3 months of rehearsals, 8 hours per day at full volume, 2-1/2 hour sound checks, and shows was because of Murray. I never had any muscle problems. My hands never got sore. Murray gave you everything you needed, and then it was up to you. He didn't believe in teaching style, but he taught you the fundamentals and mechanics and how to read well. He used to say, "I'll teach your brain, and your hands will follow."

CHAD WACKERMAN



"Murray showed me a way to play where the outcome of putting in all of this work meant that drumming was all of a sudden easy. I wasn't having to struggle."

The Murray Spivack Method



START NOW



Four Elements of Drumming

#1 Single Strokes



5:26

#2 Double Strokes



5:55

#3 Flams



6:09

#4 Closed Roll



6:14

"If you play systematically with Murray's system and go through all these exercises playing relaxed, you will get faster and faster and learn to stay relaxed so you're never sweating. You will never have to muscle anything." - Chad Wackerman

BLAQUE DYNAMITE



Blaque Dynamite is a drummer, producer, and musical innovator who has taken the music world by storm with his explosive talent and unmistakable style. He began playing drums at age 2 and later studied at Berklee College of Music. Blaque Dynamite has performed with icons like Stanley Clarke, Erykah Badu, Thundercat, and Anderson .Paak, blending jazz, hip-hop, and fusion in his innovative performances. With a unique ability to push rhythmic boundaries, he continues to shape the future of drumming and inspire musicians worldwide.

Warming Up



Don't Force Chops, Play Them Musically



Orchestrating Your Drum Solo



BLAQUE DYNAMITE



More with Blaque Dynamite

Bathroom Jam



Unheard



Drum Solo



Lombardi Live! ft. Blaque Dynamite



Fun Facts

Nickname: Mike
MAC OR PC: Mac
IPHONE OR ANDROID: Flip phone (from 2003)
TWITTER OR FACEBOOK: Twitter
FAVORITE FOOD: Crab Legs
FAVORITE DRINK: Strawberry Lemonade
FAVORITE CAR: Hipster Bike
FAVORITE BOOK: Beowolf

FAVORITE TV SHOW: Seinfeld
FAVORITE BAND: Corey Henry & The Funk Apostles
FAVORITE VENUE: Church
FAVORITE SONG: "Optimistic" by Doobie Powell
FAVORITE HOBBY: Art...period!
FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTER: Huey Freeman
BEATLES OR STONES: Stones
KETCHUP OR MUSTARD: Ketchup



Practice Room

Kick off your practice with Blaque Dynamite's warm-up routine. This foundational exercise not only builds speed and precision but also sets the stage for complex, musical drumming.

Warm-Up Routine

1 Basic Warm Up

© 1:19

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R R L L R R L L R R L L

R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R R L L R R L L R R L L

This Dennis Chambers-inspired groove challenges drummers to balance technicality with musicality, embodying Blaque Dynamite's signature approach to drumming.

Forcing Chops - Danger!

1 Dennis Chambers Inspried Groove

© 4:14

R L L F B R L L R L L F B R L L