

Doumbek Right-handed Finger and Hand Positions – Polly Tapia Ferber

Sit in an armless chair with right foot flat on the floor and left foot elevated about 5" (guitar foot stool works well for this). Practice in front of a mirror until you are confident about your finger and hand positions.

Doumbek is on your left thigh sitting closely to your waist; the bottom rim on the bowl of the drum sits securely on your lap; the head is facing out in front of you at an angle.

Left arm rests easily on the body of the doumbek with your left wrist on the rim of the drum; right elbow and arm is at waist level.

Adjust yourself and the drum so you are comfortable and the drum will not slide off your lap without holding on to it.

Doum

- right hand is slightly cupped and fingers are close together to form a chamber
- pads of the fingers hit the center of the head simultaneously as the fatty part of the hand hits the rim of the drum
- hit with a slightly loose wrist bouncing quickly off the head

Tak or Tek

- pull your right arm back, staying at waist level, until the pads of the right hand pointer, middle, and ring fingers hit the seam between the head and the rim
- hit with a slightly loose wrist bouncing quickly off the head

Kah

- left hand raised about ¼" from the bowl of the drum
- simultaneously twist at the wrist inward, the fatty part on the left side of the hand comes into contact with the bowl, break from the ring finger knuckle keeping ring finger straight, and hit the seam between the rim and the head
- quickly bounce off the head by "untwisting" your wrist outward

Tik

- pull your right arm back, staying at waist level, until the pad of the right pointer finger hits the seam between the head and the rim
- ghost or shadow (soft) beat
- bounce quickly off the head

Tük

- left hand pointer finger hits the seam of the head and the rim
- bounce quickly off the head

*Tik and Tük are interchangeable, although tük is not a ghost beat

Tah

- right hand slightly cupped and fingers are close together to form a chamber
- twist the wrist inward making contact in the center of the drum with the pads of pinky, ring, and middle fingers (pointer finger optional), and right edge of hand
- hit the center of the head with a striking motion creating a "slap"
- strike is into the head with no bounce

Rolls

- Left hand fingers roll from pinky to pointer hitting close to the seam between the head and the rim, ending with Tak; down beat is on the Tak
- T t T 'K; downbeat is on the kah
- k ^t k T; downbeat is on tak
- Hand roll – T k T ' K; down beat is on the kah