



# STICK SELECTION

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT STICK FOR YOU

### WITH MIKE JOHNSTON



In your search for the right stick, there's a lot of models that are available to you. I spent YEARS endorsing one particular model with another company before joining Vater. For over a decade, I just thought: "Sticks are sticks."

It never occurred to me to check out any other models, or even brands. It really wasn't until I started pulling sticks out of a store bin one day, while helping a new student pick out his first pair, that I really started to notice the differences between them all. While doing that I thought: "Maybe the stick I'm using isn't the right one for ME?"

When I picked up Vaters that day, I instantly discovered what I had been missing out on for all those years.

It didn't matter what Vater model I pulled out of that bin, they all felt great while having their unique differences. That experience really got me thinking and analyzing my stick choice and size. Not only were the Vater sticks better quality, but my playing had been somewhat restrained from using a size that really wasn't comfortable for me after all.

Trust me, with all the models that Vater makes, there's definitely one that's just right for you. Whether you currently play Vater or not, explore their product line and experiment with different models. You will find yourself very pleased with what you discover!

## Thickness

The diameter or thickness of a stick is one of the most crucial parts to choosing a pair of drum sticks for yourself. The diameter of the stick effects the overall weight which in turn effects the volume, strength and grip. A thicker stick will be heavier and stronger but it will also have a slightly slower rebound off of the drum or the cymbal. The added weight will also increase the volume of a given stroke. A stick with a smaller diameter will be lighter, slightly quieter, and rebound faster.

## Length

The length of a stick drastically affects the feel of the stick. Although it may not seem like much, a quarter of an inch makes a great difference in the reach of the stick as well as the rebound.

## Taper

The taper of a drum stick affects the overall balance of the stick. The longer the taper, the quicker the stick will respond off of a cymbal or a drum. The shorter the taper, the stiffer the stick will be and the less the stick will "bounce" off of the kit. The trade out here is strength. The shorter the taper the stronger the stick.

## Tip

The tip of a drum stick impacts the sound more than any other factor. A small tip will give you a bright, clean sound on the cymbals. A large tip will produce a warm, full tone. The other option to consider here is nylon vs. wood. Neither is better or worse. If you want a bright, clean sound that will cut through guitars and bass then you want to go with a nylon tip. If you want a warmer, natural tone that will blend in with the surrounding sounds then you want to go with a wood tip.



### TEARDROP

Produce rich, dark tones with focused lows.



### BARREL

Tips produce a full punchy sound. Great for louder volume situations.



### ACORN

Produce a full, fat sound. Very responsive.



### OVAL

Tips produce a broad, mid range sound due to tip length.



### BALL

Tips produce a clean, bright and articulate sound.



### NYLON

Tips produce a brighter sound than wood tip models. More durable than wood tips.

## Wood Types

### HICKORY

Hickory is the most popular wood choice for drumsticks due to its shock absorption and durability. Hickory is a great choice for all styles of music.

### MAPLE

Maple is a lighter wood that produces a very fast stick with warmer pitched tones. Due to its lightness, maple is a perfect choice for someone who is looking for a thicker stick without the extra weight.

**With all of this insight on how one pair of sticks differs from another, there is still one question you need to ask yourself before making a decision: How does it feel in your hand? You will know when you've found the right stick because it will feel like a natural extension of your body.**