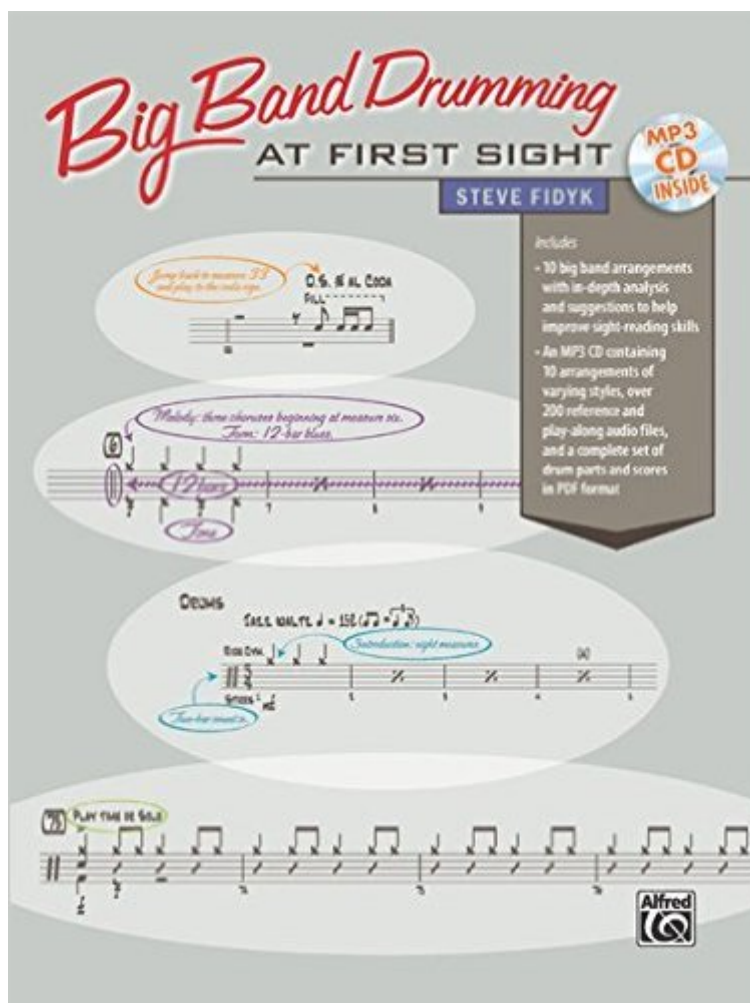


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# Big Band Drumming At First Sight: Book & CD



## Synopsis

With *Big Band Drumming at First Sight*, Steve Fidyk offers a comprehensive approach to improve sight-reading skills in a big band setting. With advice on how to accompany different musical forms and playing styles, Fidyk gives detailed information that will strengthen your ability to recognize band figures and beat patterns quickly and easily. The companion play-along MP3 CD features 10 arrangements of varying styles with beat and figure examples extracted from each score that are looped or repeated several times for thorough study. *Big Band Drumming at First Sight* will be an invaluable tool in helping you to become a better sight-reader! Read, listen, study, and learn through Steve's experience on what it takes to look at a drumset part once, and know how to deliver the musical goods with confidence! "It was love at first sight when I first encountered this book. Here is a great resource that is focused on sight-reading big band charts correctly the first time."

-Percussive Notes "Rather than offering exercises in speedy note reading, the volume covers the fine art of chart interpretation with useful advice and clear illustrations." -Jeff Potter, Modern Drummer

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

Big-band jazz demands a lot from drummers. We have to lay down a solid groove in any style the arranger can imagine, lead the band through complex musical forms with extreme dynamic ranges, and reinforce ensemble figures played by the horns. Learning a big-band arrangement by ear is difficult and time-consuming, so reading music is a practical necessity. And as a drummer moves up

to college and professional bands, the amount of time available to rehearse each arrangement becomes very small. This means drummers who can "sight-read" compositions they have never seen, doing a respectable job their very first time playing an arrangement, are MONEY IN THE BANK. Unfortunately, most high-school drummers are terrified when the jazz band director throws a new piece of music in front of them. And rightly so! The written drum part usually contains a bunch of complex rhythmic figures that the drummer must somehow orchestrate onto the drum kit, interspersed with long stretches that say nothing but "play." This presents three challenges: reading what's written, interpreting/orchestrating the written part onto the drum set, and keeping one's place through long sections of repeated measures. Steve Fidyk is a top professional big-band drummer who sight-reads for a living, and in this book he explains exactly how it's done. Using ten typical intermediate level arrangements as examples, he shows how to quickly identify what's important from the drummer's perspective, and how to use knowledge of the underlying musical form (e.g. blues) to navigate through the chart without getting lost. The accompanying CD contains play-along versions of the ten arrangements with no drums, plus a version with drums that was Fidyk's first take sight-reading each chart.

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