

Ten Useful Sticks for Taiko Players

Many taiko players would agree on the importance of coaxing multiple sounds out of a drum with a single stick. Yet a well-equipped bachi bag allows drummers to widen their sound palette and to be prepared for any musical situation. Stick selection can be very personal, but proven choices exist for specific taiko applications. Here are ten useful sticks to have in your collection.

1. Kashi 42cm x 2.2cm - the standard oak stick for chu daiko with the best durability.

2. Maple 42cm x 2.2cm - excellent alternative to kashi, producing a resonant drum tone and pleasant rim sound.

3. Hinoki 50cm x 3.5cm - this cypress stick is the standard for odaiko.

4. Hou 32cm x 1.7cm - great for general shime daiko playing, this magnolia stick is heavier and more durable than hinoki.

5. Hou 40cm x 1.8cm - a good stick for katsugi okedo as well as other small and medium taiko.

6. Hickory 38cm x 1.8cm (or maple, birch, or similar) - a crossover stick useful for playing multiple drums, rim hits, cymbals, and other percussion instruments.

7. Vic Firth SD12 Swizzle - this hybrid stick features a hard felt mallet on one end and a snare drum stick tip on the other.

8. Promark Broomsticks - a bundled brush that provides a softer attack while still allowing for full tone.

9. Promark Hot Rods - with more attack and less tone than Broomsticks, this stick is good for light articulation on all surfaces including cymbals.

10. Takebachi 50-70cm - this long bamboo stick has a wide dynamic range, from delicate tapping to very loud slapping sounds on any taiko.

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