

**No Pad; No Sticks;
Still Tops in the Class!**
Smart practicing

A Marching Percussion Report By DJ Montalbano



So, you're walking down the sidewalk, thinking about your music, because all drummers ALWAYS have their music with them, and you notice that the wind breaker you have on makes a NEATO sound when you tap on your chest. So, you find yourself marching in step, playing your cadence! You don't care what you look like--well, you do, but you're too busy to realize you might look silly.

Oftentimes we overlook the way practicing helps us. When we 'practice' we not only work on the technique we're developing, and the physical mechanics of making it all happen at a high level, but there is mental development happening as well!

When we 'practice' we're working on the memorization of that music and the practice really is working on the brain's ability to coordinate everything that needs to happen. That includes keeping the feet in time, playing all those notes, and concentrating on the musicality of it all. Not to mention the huge memory cache we try to build up so we don't forget what music 'comes next'.

So, the next time you find yourself without your sticks and you want to bang out some notes--don't fret! All is not lost! You can still get some good practice time in working on all of that--mental stuff!! Just find something to TAP ON!! Just don't annoy Mom!

P.S. - With Spring here, you're probably thinking about the upcoming season--so is your instructor! So, get rid of those winter chops! Every time you walk from one class to another--that's an opportunity for a ROLL STROLL!