

Antoine Fadavi, Elias Vasquez, Chris Grainger

The Working Drummer's Toolbox

Gear List

Video Overview:

Join Drum Channel Staff Instructors Antoine Fadavi, Elias Vasquez, and Chris Grainger as they unpack their "Working Drummer's Toolbox." Discover years' worth of essential tools and often-overlooked items for working drummers. Explore this comprehensive gear list to find out what you're missing and elevate your preparedness as a professional drummer.

About Your Teachers:

Antoine Fadavi is a trusted pop/indie-rock music director and drummer based in Los Angeles. Known for touring with King Princess, including major festivals and Red Hot Chili Peppers support shows, he excels in live music direction. Antoine has worked with artists like Fiji Blue, Presley Regier, Iggy Azalea, and Landon Barker, as well as his band Angelsaur. From late-night TV to stadiums, his versatility and leadership create unforgettable live performances.

Chris Grainger, an innovative drummer, began playing at four and developed his craft under Thomas Lang. He's performed with Mick Ralphs, Robert Hart, and Brian May, replacing drummers like Mick Avory and Chris Slade. Touring with Bruce Foxton of The Jam, he earned acclaim for his dynamic drumming. Influenced by Vinnie Colaiuta and Buddy Rich, his passion was shaped early by his father, guitarist Gary Grainger, and a pivotal experience with The Who's Simon Phillips.

Elias Vasquez, a Los Angeles-based drummer and percussionist, is a Resident Instructor at Drum Channel. A Cal State Northridge graduate, he toured with Anthony Strong, performed at the Hollywood Bowl, and worked with Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Postmodern Jukebox, Cody Simpson, and MIYAVI. Skilled in Rock, Jazz, Afro-Cuban, and more, he's studied with legends like Gregg Bissonette and Alex Acuña. Elias teaches privately, records across genres, and occasionally performs at Disneyland.

Antoine's Toolbox

Hard Case

- Pelican 1510 (Antoine's)
- Pelican Air 1535 (lighter than Antoine's, better option)
- Label the case, with phone number, email, social media...
- Add laminated bag tag
- Lock if needed
- Write dimensions of case on top of case for carnet
- Research top lid organizer options for what works best for you (laptop sleeves, additional pouches...)

Antoine originally started with dividers, then moved to empty Pelican and pouches for tools, because it frees up room, and you can move pouches around stage depending on use.

Labeled Shure Mic Pouches

Cympad Moderators (to attenuate cymbal volume)

- 50mm
- 60mm
- 70mm
- 80mm
- 90mm
- 100mm

Pens

- Sharpie Black Regular
- Sharpie Black with Keychain Cap
- Sharpie Black King
- Sharpie Silver
- Sharpie Gold
- Sharpie Red
- Pilot G-2 Pen

Hardware

- Cymbal Sleeves
- Wing Nuts
- Tension Rods
- Cup Washer
- Hi-Hat Clutch
- Bass Drum Beater

Keys

- Drum Keys
- Allen Keys
- TAMA Multikey
- Drum Bit Drill Adapter

Soundscapes

- Bells
- Moongels

Cymbal Felts

- Regular Felts
- Hi-Hat Felts

Miscellaneous

- Lanyards
- USB Cables
- Guitar Picks
- Flashlight
- Phone Charging Cable + Brick

Audio

- 1/8" Y Split
- 1/4" to 1/8" Adapters
- AUX Cable
- 1/4" Cable
- 1/8" Extender

Batteries

- AAA
- AA
- 9V

First Aid Pouch

- Band-aids
- Gauze

Bigger items that don't fit in Shure mic pouches

Percussion

- Tambourine
- Bells
- Shaker

Sticks

- Drumsticks
- Mallets
- Brushes

Tape

- Gaff Tape
- Electrical Tape

Cleaners

- Hand Sanitizing Wipes
- Tape Wipe (*smith&nephew REMOVE universal adhesive remover wipe*)
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Cymbal Cleaner

Misc

- Power Travel Adapters
- Black Stage Towel
- Snare Strands/Wires
- Kick/Snare/Tom Triggers
- Rubber Bands

Chris's Toolbox

Case

Depends on the level of the tour or show and if I am the drummer or if I am the tech!

Personal = Black Text

Teching only = Red Text

DW Machined Pedal Case

Roller Case

Items

Drum Rug

- Rubber Backed, with coarse carpet texture
- Fully Marked up ahead of tour to replicate hardware/drum/pedal positions

Pens

- Sharpie Black Regular
- Sharpie Silver
- Sharpie Gold
- Sharpie Red
- Sharpie Neon Pink
- Sharpie Neon Green
- Pilot G-2 Pen x 3

Hardware

- DW Cymbal Wing Nuts
- Tama Cymbal Mates
- Standard Tension Rods
- DW Tension Rods
- Hi Hat Cup Washer
- DW Hi-Hat Clutch x 2
- Spare Bass Drum Beater x 2
- Spare Bass Drum Beater MDD
- Tama Rhythm Watch Clamp
- Rocklocks

Tools

- DW Large Drum Keys x 3 (people always steal these)
- Thomas Lang VK Multi Tool
- Rechargeable Drill with allen/Phillips/flathead attachments
- Drum Bit Drill Adapter

Soundscapes

- Rem-Os
- Remo Crown Control

Cymbal Felts

- Regular Felts
- Hi-Hat Felts

Miscellaneous

- Lanyards
- USB Cables
- Flashlight
- Phone Charging Cable + Bricks
- Apple Watch Charger
- Business Cards

Audio

- 1/8" Y Split
- 1/4" to 1/8" Adapters
- 1/8" to 1/4" Adapters
- AUX Cable
- 1/4" Cable
- 1/8" Extender
- Sennheiser HD25 Headphones (without dedicated monitor engineer)
- Shure In-Ears (with dedicated monitor engineer)

Batteries

- AAA
- AA
- 9V

First Aid Pouch

- Band-aids
- Gauze
- Superglue

Sticks

- Drumsticks
- Main "Large" Stick Bag - off the kit
- Vic Firth Marching Stick Bag - on the kit
- Mallets
- Brushes
- Power Wrist Builders for warm up

Tape

- Gaffer Tape
- Duct Tape
- Neon Tape (assorted colors)
- Micropore Tape

Cleaners

- Hand Sanitizing Wipes
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Cymbal Cleaner

Electronic

- Tama Rhythm Watch
- Small Mixer with 4-8 channels
- DI Box

Heads

- Spare heads for duration of tour
- Spare heads for snare batter, resonant and bass drum for single show

Misc

- Power Travel Adapters
- Drumming Shoes (separate from street shoes)
- Practice Pad
- Black Stage Towel - Multiple Towels if I am teching for Thomas...!
- Snare Strands/Wires
- Pedalyte
- Quest Protein Bars
- Gear Rider
- Set Lists
- Show Notes or Charts
- Copies of travel documents for International Shows
- Hard Drives
- Cash - local currency and USD
- Credit Card - low credit limit "emergency card", separate from wallet and hidden.
- A good book
- Yellow Legal Pad
- Merch for me/band/client
- Tama Tension Watch

Elias's Toolbox

Local Gigs

Gear

- Drums In Cases (Soft Cases)
- Cymbal Bag (Soft Case) With Clutch & Spare Drum Key
- Extra Snare Head & BD Head
- Cymbal Stands & Throne (Always bring 1 More than is needed)
- Drum Rug
- Drum Pedal (With Extra Drum Key and Additional Pedal)
- Stick Bag (Sticks, Brushes, Mallets, Extra Felts and Cymbal Ring)
- Additional Tools In Stick Bag (Wire Cutters, Flashlight Utility Knife, Cymbal Sizzles, Gloves, Throw Away Glasses, Chap Stick, Sun Lotion)
- Music Stand & Ipad Stand
- Metronome External with Cables
- Setlists or Charts

Utility

- Backpack (IEMs, iPad or Laptop, Airpods, Gaff Stape, Sharpies (Diff Colors) Extra Drum Keys, Cable Bag with Chargers, Multiple Cable Types, Splitters ¼ & 8th, Extra IEM cables, Multiple Adapters ¼ & 8th, ETC..)
- Power Conditioner
- Flashlight
- Bad-Aids
- 1 Snare Mic & 1 Kick Mic
- 2 XLR Cables
- Recording Device (Zoom or Phone Shure Mic)
- 2-Channel Small Mixer (Power Cable & 1/4 " Cable)
- SPD-SX (Softcase), Two Roland Triggers & ¼" Cables (Kick, Snare)
- Cables for SPD (Power, Split ¼" to Stereo Cable, DI Box)
- SPD-SX Hardware

Misc

- Water, Light Snacks, Energy Bar
- Practice Pad
- Sweat Towels
- Dress Dependent on Gig
- Extra Tie & Bow Tie
- Drumming Shoes (Vans or Dress Shoes)
- Extra Shirt

Traveling Gigs (Dependent on Backline)

Gear

- Drums In Hard Shell Cases
- Cymbal Bag Hardshell
- Extra Hi-Hat Tension Rod
- Extra Heads (Ideally for Each Drum)
- Drum Pedal (With Extra Drum Key and Additional Pedal)
- Stick Bag (Sticks, Brushes, Mallets) Additional Tools In Stick Bag (Wire Cutters, Flashlight, Utility Knife, Cymbal Sizzles, Gloves, Throw Away Glasses, Chap Stick, Sun Lotion)
- Music Stand or iPad Stand

Utility

Small Pelican Case with:

- Flashlight
- Sharpies (Multi-Color), Pens (Multi-Color), Gaff Tape (Multi-Color)
- Tools, Small Drill with Drum Key Bit
- Metronome External with Cables
- Batteries
- Small First-Aid
- Cables (USB, Power, Charing)
- Adapters $\frac{1}{4}$ " and $\frac{1}{8}$ " Female and Male, USB B-C, $\frac{1}{8}$ " Extender
- Extra IEMs (Cables, Cleaners, Cable Clips)
- Cymbal Felts (Reg and Hi-Hat) & Washers
- Moongels or Other Dampening
- Extra Clutch & Spare Drum Keys

Backpack

- Travel Documents, ID or Passport, IEMs, iPad or Laptop, AirPods, Sharpies, Pens, Extra Drum Keys
- Charts or Setlists
- Recording Device (Zoom or Phone Shure Mic)
- Extra Shirt & Light Jacket
- Water Bottle and Light Snacks
- Sleeping Mask, Sleep Pillow (If there's space)
- Sun Glasses
- Book

SPD-SX Small Peli (Gig Dependent)

- SPD-SX, Hardware, Roland Triggers & ¼" Cables (Kick, Snare, Toms Etc.)
- Cables for SPD (Power, Split ¼" to Stereo Cable) Adapters Etc.
- DI Box

Misc.

- Practice Pad
- Sweat Towels
- Dress Dependent on Gig
- Extra Shirt