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Subject: Online Drum Lessons: Ways To Improve your experience
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To:



1. The type of microphone which is built in to laptops, phones & tablets is just not great at capturing the sound of drums & cymbals. At best, it's distorted and at worst, the sound cuts out entirely at times.
2. Zoom is the best platform overall, but only if you can use a laptop (or other computer). It has advanced audio settings that make a huge difference in the sound, and it has some other great features. These are not available for tablet or phone, unfortunately.
3. The quality of your internet connection is a big factor. If you can connect directly to your cable modem/wifi router with an ethernet cable, that is the best option for an online lesson. If you can turn off any devices in your home which are passively using the internet, that can help. It will also be helpful if you can ask other family members to avoid streaming video or doing anything else that is taxing on your internet bandwidth during your online drum lesson.
4. The student needs to wear headphones, unless you are doing practice pad only. It just works better.
5. Playing along with songs is usually every student's favorite part of the lesson, but so far, it has not been possible to do it in online lessons without some additional equipment. Some students have played their song through loudspeakers & played along with that, but the results are not great.

After doing some research, I've found that the best way to make it work is with a small mixer, a microphone, and an audio interface, going to a laptop. You can plug your phone into the mixer, and the sound will be combined with the sound of the microphone and sent to the computer. You can use a phone app for a metronome, and there are apps to slow down a song, as well.

Equipment to consider:

Behringer makes a small mixer that has an audio interface built in, so you can plug it straight into the USB input on a computer. (There's probably an adaptor to use with tablet or phone.) The [Behringer Xenyx 302USB](#) and [Xenyx 502USB](#) are the most affordable way to have better sound and be able to play to songs (or metronome) during an online lesson.

Some of you may already have a mixer and a microphone, so you would only need an audio interface to get the sound into your computer, tablet or phone. I am using the [iRig Pro Duo](#), but there are many great options.

Sweetwater has a helpful guide here:

<https://www.sweetwater.com/insync/audio-interface-buying-guide/>

Behringer Mixer, mic & headphones for \$100

<https://www.sweetwater.com/store/detail/PodcastSt2USB--behringer-podcaststudio-2-usb-bundle-podcasting-bundle>

Xenyx 502USB New on Amazon \$78

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B008O516JW/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_U_iewGEbENRG0W8

If you are not concerned with playing along to songs, all you need is a microphone. There are many choices which can plug straight into a phone, tablet, or computer.