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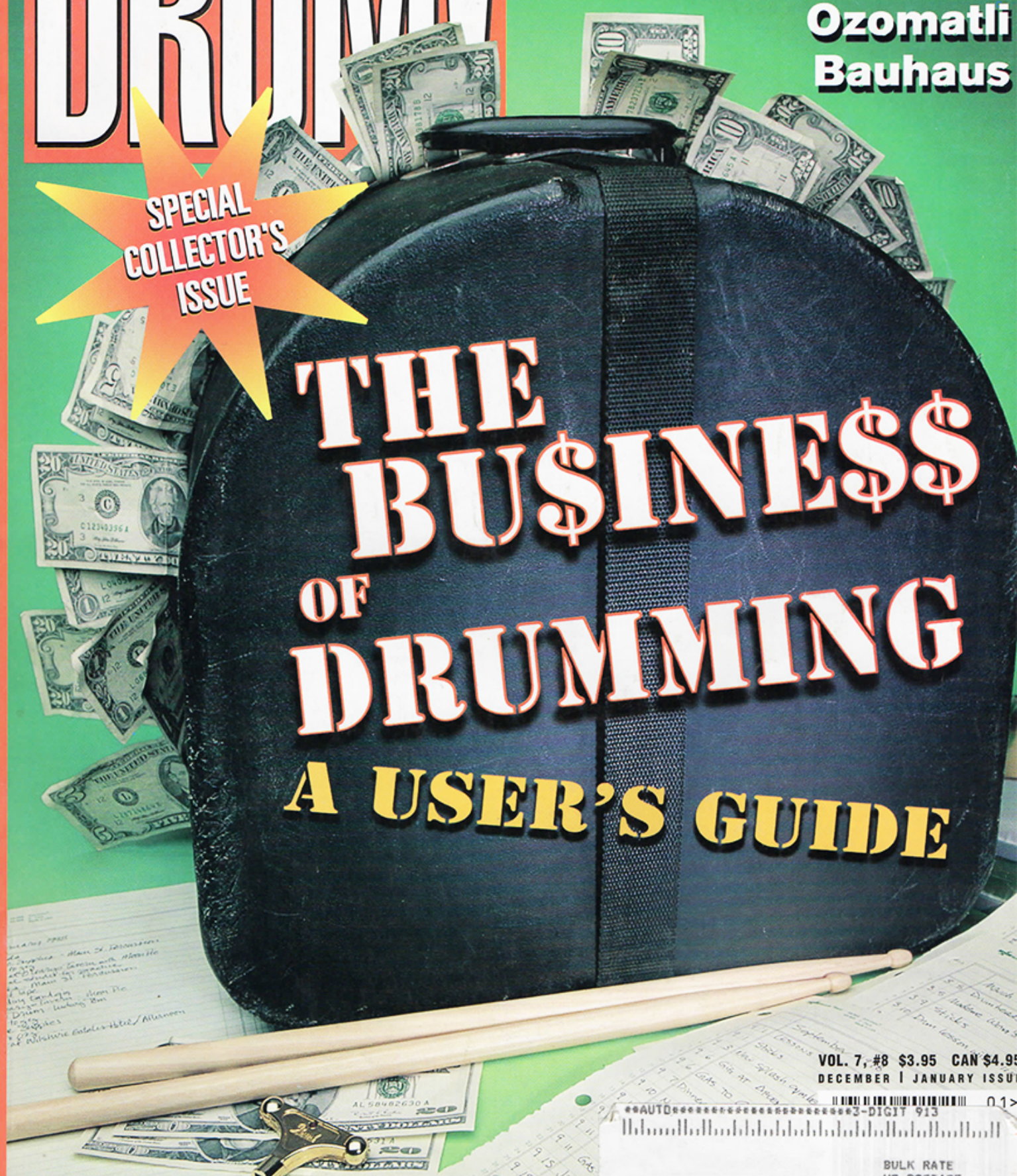
**SPECIAL  
COLLECTOR'S  
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# THE BUSINESS\$ OF DRUMMING A USER'S GUIDE

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## BUTCH

### STICKS & SKINS

*Butch gets his ears tested once a year and is a member of the eels.*



A student of mine recently had a breakthrough in his playing during a lesson held in his garage. He had his kit set up in a small corner with pads and silencers on the drums, so he wouldn't bother his neighbors.

I asked him if he liked the sound of his beautiful vintage Rogers kit, but he said he didn't know what it really sounded like

because he never played with anyone, nor hit them with the pads off. Since it was just six o'clock in the evening, I told him he should take off the pads and feel what it's like to hit them.

Pads and silencers are a necessity, but you must find a place and a time to play your instrument as it is meant to be played, and find your "voice." When you play music with other musicians the pads aren't going to cut it.

My student said he'd been talking to his buddies about starting a band, but didn't feel secure enough in his playing. I told him the only way to evolve and become secure with your instrument is by playing with other musicians. No matter how good an instructor you have, the best way to acclimate with your instrument is through a band. There are no substitutions!

It's also essential to play with other musicians to create music. You need to start listening to your sound with other instruments to build your sense of dynamics, feel, color, timing — where you'll fit in. Your drum sounds will also become fine-tuned. Cymbals, pedals, sticks, heads, all will take on a new meaning and importance as you play with others. This is necessary if you want to be a

musician.

You won't always fit in with other musicians. I've had my fair share of players I had nothing in common with, but learned who and what worked from the experience.

Mind you, I think drumming is also a therapeutic endeavor, and if you're like many people who don't wish to perform, then pursue this for your own pleasure. Take it all the way, and rent a practice room sometime. Experience the true feeling and joy of hitting a live drum set. Some rehearsal studios even rent drums.

In the following lesson, this particular student told me he got together with his

buddies, and they were now forming a band.

These six exercises and basic patterns are simple in design, yet can be subtly different when played with different beaters, temps and dynamics. The patterns are for a right-handed drummer playing a four-piece kit. Lefties can just reverse the stickings. For the "P" quiet volume, just work around the kit with your index fingers. At the "MF" medium level, try a pair of forks (yes, silverware stuff!). It is crazy, but forks produce a nice sound and are great on cymbals too. At the "F" loud volume, use your sticks.

As always, have fun.

### Basic Pattern

R L R L R L R L R L R L L R

L R L R L R L R L R L R

1 R L R L R L R L R L L

2 L R L R L R L R L R L R R

3 R L R L R L R L R L L

4 L R L R L R L R L R L R R

5 R L R L R L R L R L L

6 L R L R L R L R L R L R R

### Drum Key

Mounted Tom    Snare    Floor Tom    Bass    Hi-Hat w/foot