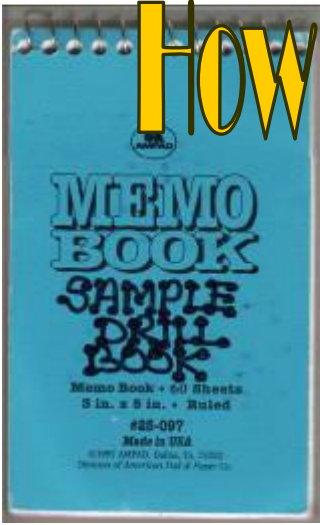


How to Set Up Your Drill Book!

By Catina Anderson



Memorizing your drill sets at marching band camp can be a challenge! Remembering them two weeks or even two months later when you are going back to clean sets before a competition can be an even greater challenge! And carrying around a big bulky binder of drill pages just is not an option once you have instruments or equipment in your hands!

One solution that many performers use is to create your own miniature drill notebook! Using a small spiral notepad attached to a shoestring or key lanyard that you can wear on your belt, around your waist or around your neck during rehearsal, you can record all of your drill coordinates, counts and any other reminders you might need so that you can look up the exact information needed in case you forget where you are supposed to be, lose track of counts or the instructional staff need to know your exact coordinates. You can also record any changes made to the written drill as the show develops or notes like who stands next to you or what measure number the drill set starts with! And, because your notebook is small and lightweight, you can keep it with you at all rehearsals and still be free to carry your instrument or your guard equipment and perform with ease.

This article explains one way you can organize your notebook for quick reference!

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1. Put your Name on It!

Start by making sure you clearly mark your drill book on the inside and outside of the cover with your name and your drill number so it does not get confused with your band-mates!

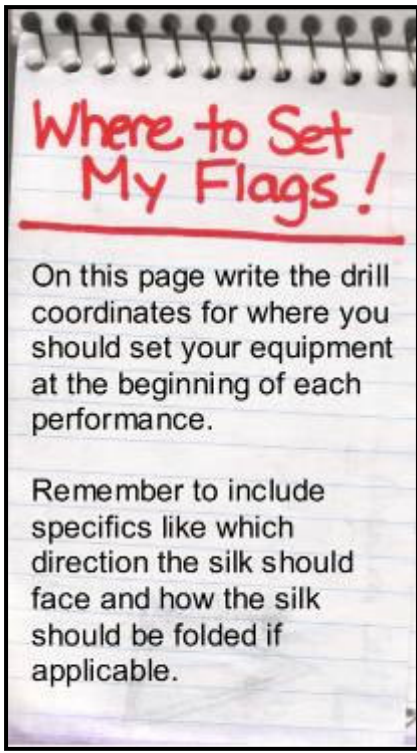


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2. Your Counts Sheet

On the first page and second page create a count-sheet for each drill set in each part of your show. This will be helpful during the first few run-throughs without instruments and equipment and to refer to in case you or a friend forgets!



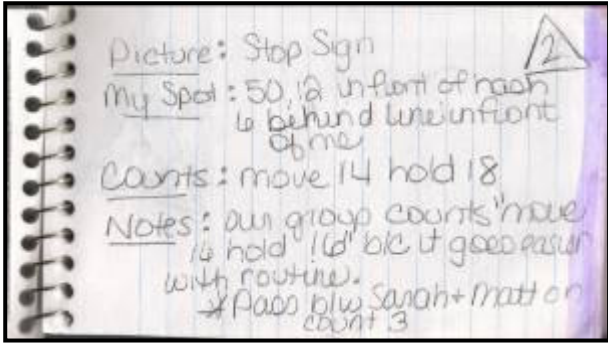


3. Setting the Show

If you are a member of the guard, use the next page to record where you should set your equipment at the beginning of the show. Remember to include specifics like which direction the silk should be facing and how the silk should be folded if applicable. Band members might use this page for notes on how to enter the field during halftime or at competitions.

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4. Drawing the drill set

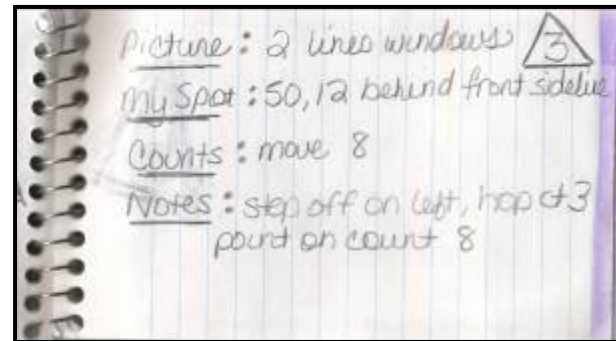
Then reserve two pages for each drill set. Clearly Mark each page with the drill set number so that when your drum major asks you to go back to set 17 you know exactly what he/she is talking about! On the left hand side draw a picture of the drill set and mark approximately where you are in that picture. Or, if you have access to a copy machine you can reduce the actual drill page and glue it here with a glue stick!

5. Taking Notes!

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On the right hand side is where you take notes. Set up each page as pictured. Give each drill set a Name if your director has not already done so. This will help you to remember what the shape of the form should be and

will be easier to remember than set numbers. Next write your coordinates. Then record the counts it takes to get to this spot. And finally make notes that will help you to remember important information. Notice in the examples I noted differences in counting the set for my section, who I stood next to and even notes about footwork and choreography.



Then, using a different color highlighter for each song or part of your show, mark across the bottom of each page. This will

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make it easier to find the sets you need to refer to quickly when you have a question!



Attach a string or key lanyard to the spirals so that you can easily carry your drill book with you at all times! With a well-organized drill book you should be good to go for memorizing your drill quickly and accurately!