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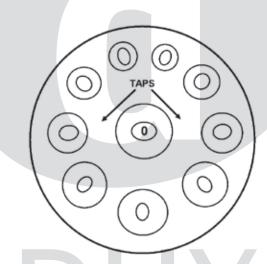
8. PLAYING WITH TAPS

Playing with taps or ghost notes is a technique which works extremely well on the handpan and can get some rhythms really grooving.

This playing technique is very common on many hand drums, such as djembes, congas and frame drums.

Taps are strokes which you play very gently to produce a soft sound on what we can call the untuned or non-melodious parts (the so-called 'interstitial') between the tone fields. The best way to play them is to strike your handpan between the central note and the outer tone fields.

In the following examples, the taps serve to create a steady flow with the hands. The hands move continuously up and down, continually alternating between right and left. The difficult thing is to play the taps very softly and to play the other strokes such as the bass and tak strokes at a normal volume.



The symbol for taps is a line: -

Basic exercise, slow	R T 0	ı	<u>L</u>	T	R T		<u>_</u>	T	R T 0	1	<u>L</u>	T	R T			T
Basic exercise, fast	R T 0	L -	R -	L 	R T 0	L -	R -	L 	R T 0	L 	R		R T 0	L -	R -	L T

This is a really good way to play rock, pop, funk and hip-hop grooves.

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