GOLD DRUMS

Pure gold for drummers.

PRESS RELEASE

Gold Drums is an app for drummers.

Dial in a punchy tom sound. Find a fresh groove to play. See where you rush a fill. Gold Drums is a free app made by a drummer to help you tune your kit and get more from your practice.

App Store

About Me

What started as a project for myself, to find the right lug pitches to tune to, is now a full app for drummers.

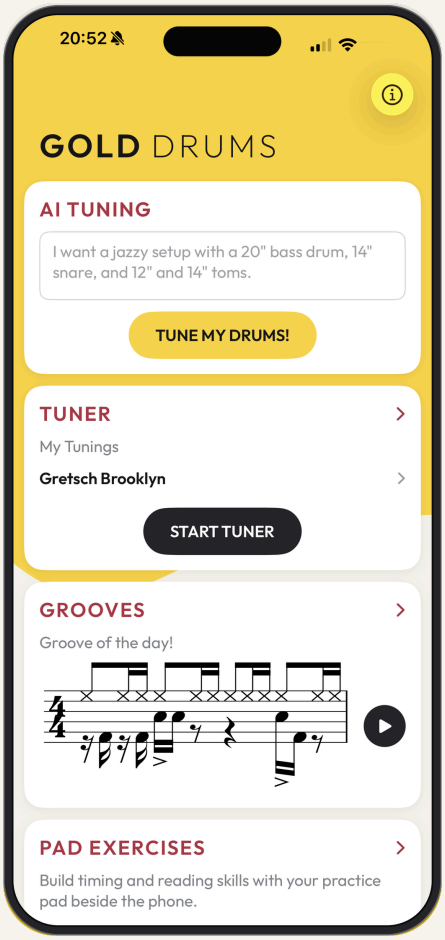
My mix of knowledge in computer science, app development, AI, and drumming allowed me to create Gold Drums, to help other drummers sound better in various ways. I love how freely drummers share what they know, at drum camps and beyond. Making this app free is my way of giving back.

I am a professional app developer, working on Switzerland's biggest and most-used apps. As a drummer, I play in jazz bigbands and in a rock band for children, so that even the small kids get to hear good music. I was also a member of the Swiss Army Band.

marcozimmermann.ch · Instagram · YouTube

The app

- **AI tuning.** Write one sentence about your drums and the sound you want. The tuning comes back from that: lower for rock, higher for jazz, and always dependent on the sizes you name.
- **Tuner.** Tune each lug with the iPhone microphone. Difference and filter lock onto the pitch you are chasing, and a saved kit is easy to move through, drum by drum.
- **Grooves.** Tap and another groove appears. Choose a jazz feel or a backbeat feel, practise the variations, and export the page to Instagram or as a PDF.
- **Pad exercises.** Play on a practice pad. The iPhone listens with the microphone and scores your timing, in note timing, sight reading, hand balance, or beat stability.
- **BPM Tracker.** Play your drums and see your tempo in real time. A graph shows where you speed up or slow down.
- **Metronome.** Of course, another metronome. One bar or a sequence of them, with different rhythms, muted bars, tap tempo, and a workout that steps the speed up.



AI tuning

FROM ONE SENTENCE

Describe your kit and the sound you want, and Gold Drums suggests lug pitches. Apply them, and the drums sound right together: lower for rock, higher for jazz, shaped by the sizes you mention.

For example:

- “I want a jazzy setup with a 20" bass drum, 14" snare, and 12" and 14" toms.”
- “I play rock and use a 22" bass drum, 14" snare, and 12" and 16" toms.”
- “I have 12" and 16" toms and want them punchy and low.”

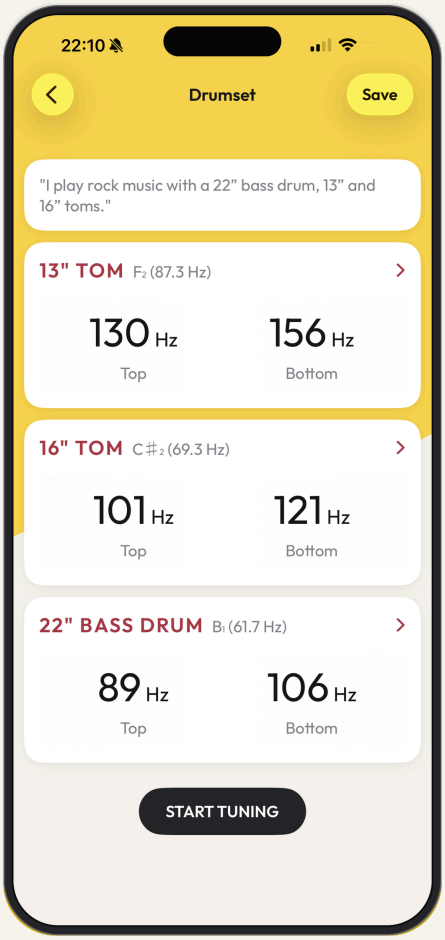
A MUSICAL STARTING POINT

Every suggested tuning gets you closer to the sound you want, and you can adjust it any time. Pick a note or a frequency in hertz, and Gold Drums gives you the lug pitches for both heads.

Tuning is easy to put off, but a good tuning can bring even an inexpensive drum to life. When you like how your kit sounds, you want to play it more.

TECHNICAL

The relationship between a tom’s resulting pitch and its lug pitches comes from measurements of real toms at different tunings.



Tone recognition

WITH THE MICROPHONE

Lug tuning is done with the microphone of the iPhone. Strike near a lug and the tuner shows the pitch.

DIFFERENCE AND FILTER

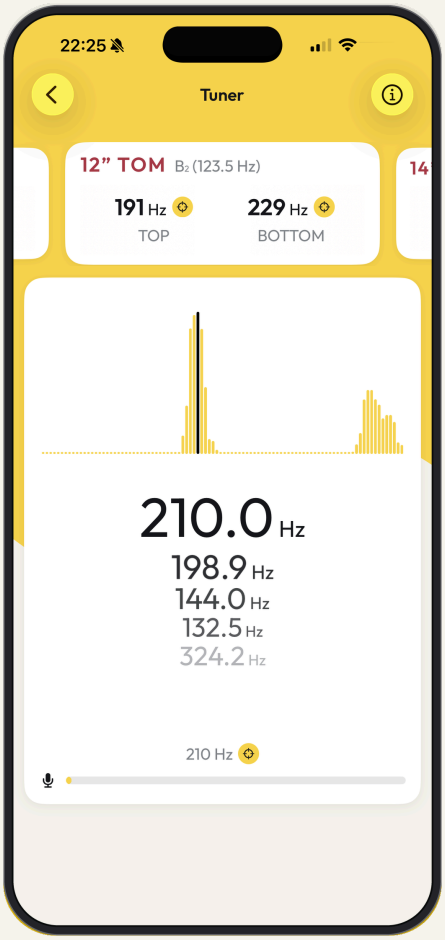
Difference mode shows how far the hit sits above or below the lug you are tuning to. Filter mode narrows the listening so a ringy head or a noisy room is less likely to pull the reading away.

YOUR DRUMS

Saved tunings are easy to move through. Step from drum to drum and see each one's pitches and the spectrum of the hit you just played.

TECHNICAL

EQ is applied to find the most meaningful frequencies, including a correction for the specific curve of the iPhone microphone. That is also what makes the hard part workable: hearing the lug pitch itself, and not an overtone.



Grooves

TAP FOR ANOTHER

Grooves are generated. Choose a jazz swing or backbeat feel and set the time signature. Tap, and another groove appears. If you do not like it, or it is not playable for you yet, tap again and take the next one.

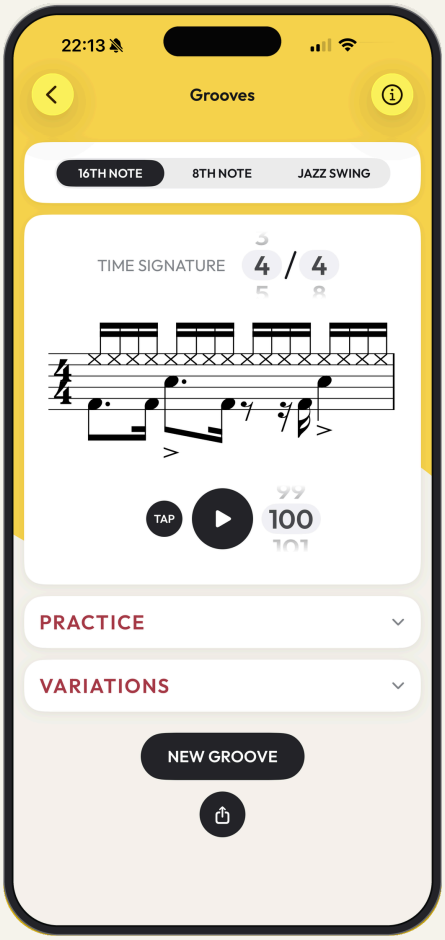
A book gives you one fixed set of grooves. Here you can generate as many as you want, and each of them comes with variations.

PLAY ALONG WITH BASS

Practise with a bass line built around your groove.

SHARE YOUR GROOVE

Share your groove as an Instagram Story or save it with its variations as a PDF.



Pad exercises

PLAY, AND GET A SCORE

Play on a practice pad. The iPhone listens with the microphone and scores your timing.

MODES

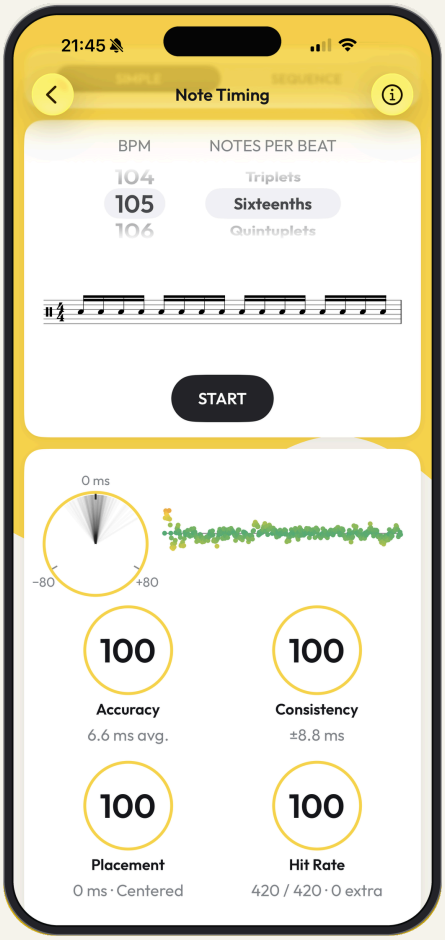
Note timing is a steady rhythm with the click. You play quarters, eighths, triplets, sixteenths, or quintuplets, and the score shows how close you landed.

Sight reading puts a full snare étude in front of you. You play what is written, and the score comes back at the end.

Hand balance writes a sticking, right and left. The score splits by hand, so you can see which one is ahead.

TECHNICAL

For the score to work, the delay between the click leaving the speakers and its arrival at the microphone has to be synchronized with the microphone processing. The scores themselves draw on research in music science.



BPM Tracker

TRACK YOUR TEMPO

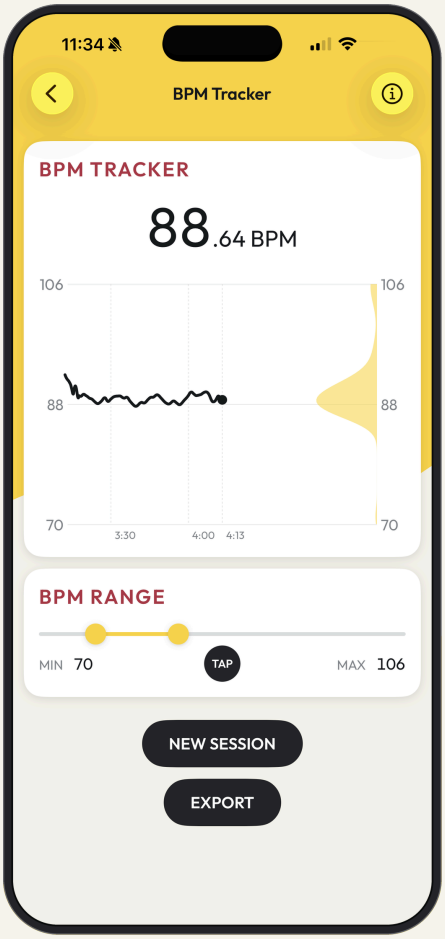
Play at your own pace, then trim, name and share your tempo graph as an image. See where you rush a fill or settle back into the groove. The yellow histogram on the right shows which tempos stand out.

HALF-TIME OR DOUBLE-TIME?

The same groove can feel like 70 or 140 BPM. Tap along a few times to give the tracker your tempo. You can still speed up or slow down, and the range helps prevent false jumps.

TECHNICAL APPROACH

The open-source Beat-and-Tempo-Tracking library estimates tempo by looking for recurring intervals between attacks.



Metronome

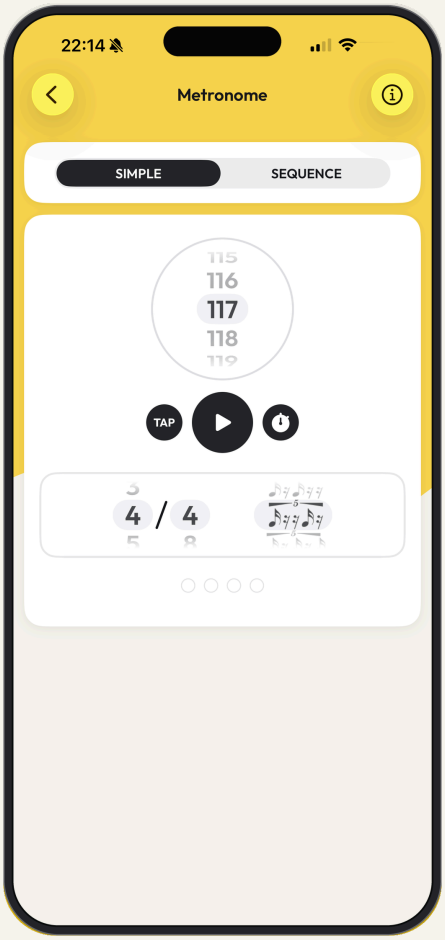
Of course, another metronome.

OPTIONS

One bar when you just need a click, or a sequence of bars that loop, each with its own time signature and repeats.

The click can sit on the beat or off it, and on eighths, sixteenths, triplets, or quintuplets.

Mute a bar and play through the silence. Tap the tempo in. A workout raises the speed in steps, for as many bars or rounds as you set.



For editors

Name	Gold Drums
Price	Free
Platforms	iPhone, iPad, and Mac
Requires	iOS 18 or iPadOS 18, or macOS 15 or later
Language	English
Category	Music
Age	4+
Developer	Marco Zimmermann
Email	marzimdrums@gmail.com
App Store	apps.apple.com/app/id6762202651
Website	marcozimmermann.ch
Instagram	@marzimdrums
YouTube	@Zimi1987

