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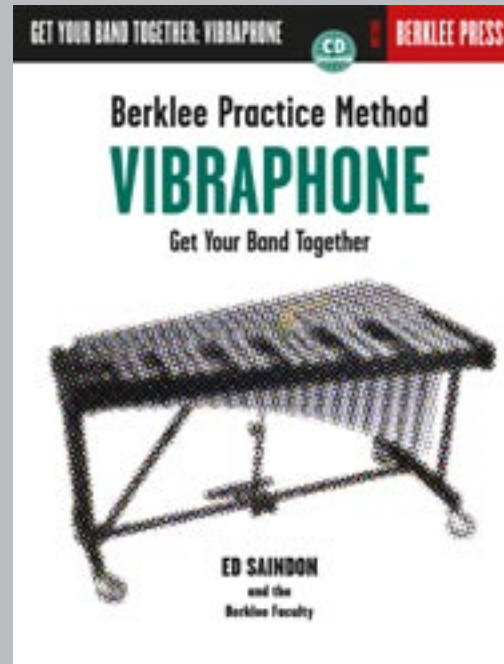
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Berklee College of Music

**Berklee Practice Method
Vibraphone**
Ed Saindon

Chapter 6: Playing Hard Rock
Lesson 21
Technique/Theory

Click CD icons to listen to
CD tracks from book.
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“Don’t Look Down” is a *hard rock* tune. Hard rock first appeared in the late 1960s. It has characteristic heavy bass, long, drawn-out chords, and amplified instruments. To hear more hard rock, listen to guitar-oriented bands, such as Aerosmith, Metallica, Powerman 5000, the Allman Brothers Band, Rob Zombie, Godsmack, 311, Stone Temple Pilots, Black Crowes, Steve Vai, Smashing Pumpkins, and vibraphonist Ruth Underwood (Frank Zappa).



LESSON 21 TECHNIQUE/THEORY

Listen to “Don’t Look Down,” and then play along with the recording. Try to match the vibraphone part. This tune has two parts.

LISTEN **29** PLAY

First comping part

Second comping part

PAD COMPING

The chords are long and sustained in this tune. This way of playing chords is called *pad comping*. The vibraphone is perfect for pad comping since the chords can sustain for long periods.

Pad comping works well especially when the other instruments are playing busier parts. “Don’t Look Down” has a busy bass line and rock drum beat, as well as an active melody. The pad comping part holds it all together:

The second part has a syncopation. Clap the comping rhythms to the second part of “Don’t Look Down.” Accent the syncopated note.

LISTEN 31 PLAY

Clap
(Comping Rhythm)

Foot
(Pulse)

Count
(16ths)

(1) e + a 2 e (+) a 3 e + a 4 e + a

Play the second written comping part. While you play, count the sixteenths and hook up with the groove.

LISTEN 31 PLAY

2nd Comping Part

Count
(16ths)

(1) e + a 2 e (+) a 3 e + a 4 e + a