

Figure 1: Chart of Percussion Pitch Clarity

Group One
Definite Pitch

vibraphone
marimba
xylophone
glockenspiel
chimes
crotales
steel drums
almglocken
nipple gongs
timpani
roto-toms (or indefinite)
flexatone (or indefinite)
thumb piano

Group Two
Indefinite, Clear Pitch

Japanese temple bowls
metal pipes
agogo bells
brake drums
cowbells
mixing bowls
anvil
small gongs
finger cymbals
crystal glasses
glass bottles
ceramic rice bowls
whistles

Group Three
Indefinite, Less Clear Pitch

bongos
congas
roto-toms (or definite)
wood blocks
temple blocks
log drums
claves

Group Four
Indefinite, Less Clear Pitch

tom-toms
tenor drum
timbales
tamborim
frame drum
djembe
dumbek
wood drum
pop gun
stones
coconuts

Group Five
Indefinite, Nearly Unclear Pitch

concert bass drum
pedal bass drum
triangle
suspended cymbals
tam-tam
castanets
cajón

Group Six
Indefinite, Unclear Pitch

hihat
crash cymbals
china cymbal
thundersheet
snare drum (snares on)
field drum (snares on)
hammer as used in
Mahler Symphony No. 6
cabasa
maracas
shakers

guiro
washboard
rainstick
ratchet
rute
sandpaper blocks
slapstick
sleighbells
tambourine (jingles)
vibraslap
wind machine

Group Seven
Indefinite, Clear, Variable Pitch

mark tree
wind chimes
bell tree
lion's roar
friction roll
quica
sirens
flexatone (or definite)