

IMEA

Snare Drum Fundamentals Clinic

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Presented by

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Snare Drum Fundamentals

By Bret Kuhn

Matched Grip

- 1) The Fulcrum is between the thumb and the first and second joint of the index finger.
- 2) Gently wrap ALL fingers around the stick.
- 3) Palms face the ground.



Left Hand Traditional Grip

- 1) Left hand is in a position to shake hands.
- 2) Fulcrum is between the index finger and thumb, with the stick resting at the base of the thumb and index finger. The thumb should contact the index finger at the first joint.
- 3) The stick will then rest on the last joint of the fourth finger. The pinky finger underneath the fourth finger and the middle finger rests against the stick.
- 4) Rotate your wrist as if turning a door knob. The left arm is a rotating cylinder.



Proper Body Position

- 1) Stand a few feet away from the drum
- 2) Bend your arms at the elbows, relax your shoulders and put your beads together.
- 3) Slowly walk towards the drum until the beads are in the center of the head.
- 4) Make sure the sticks are parallel to the drum head, 1" above the rim.

The 3 Muscle Groups in Drumming

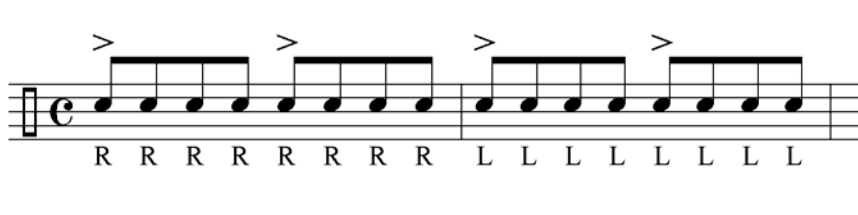
- 1) Fingers
- 2) Wrists
- 3) Arms

Stroke Fundamentals

Legato-stroke - *When the stick rebounds back to where it began.* Use the rebound and energy offered by the drum. Don't inhibit the stroke. You should see one smooth arc with the bead appearing only at the top of the stroke.



Down-stroke - *When the stick ends lower than where it began.* Utilize your back two fingers to freeze the stick as they have the most leverage over the tip. Stay relaxed and don't add more velocity or tension than you had on the Legato stroke. Remember the finger control for freezing the stick happens **AFTER** you strike the drum.



Legato/Down stroke - With the next exercise, you can compare the legato stroke to the down stroke. The fourth note starts exactly like the first three, but ends down. Don't put more force on the last accented note.

B = Bounce **F = Freeze** - To stop the rebound.



Legato Up-Stroke - Traditionally defined as the lifting of the stick to re-attack the drum. An example would be lifting the left hand during the double right in the Single Paradiddle.

Musical notation for Legato Up-Stroke exercise. The notation is on a single staff with a common time signature (C). It consists of four measures. Above the first two notes of each measure is an accent (>) and a bracket. Above the first two notes of the first measure is the label 'LH Up'. Above the first two notes of the second measure is the label 'RH Up'. Above the first two notes of the third measure is the label 'LH Up'. Above the first two notes of the fourth measure is the label 'RH Up'. Below the staff, the drum strokes are indicated by letters: R L R R L R L L, R L R R L R L L.

Staccato Up-stroke - For example, a staccato up-stroke would be used in the Flamacue or the Inverted Flam Tap. After playing a low tap, quickly lift the stick and immediately re-attack the drum. It is a more muscular technique.

Musical notation for Staccato Up-stroke exercise. The notation is on a single staff with a common time signature (C). It consists of two measures. The first measure is labeled 'Flamacue' and the second measure is labeled 'Inverted Flam Taps'. Above the first note of each measure is an accent (>). Below the staff, the drum strokes are indicated by letters: R L R L R L R L, R L L R R L L R.

Flamacue - single hand exercise.

Musical notation for Flamacue single hand exercise. The notation is on a single staff with a common time signature (C). It consists of two measures. Above the first note of each measure is an accent (>). Below the staff, the drum strokes are indicated by letters: R R R R R R R R R R, L L L L L L L L L L.

Inverted Flam Tap - single hand exercise.

Musical notation for Inverted Flam Tap single hand exercise. The notation is on a single staff with a common time signature (C). It consists of two measures. Above the first note of each measure is an accent (>). Below the staff, the drum strokes are indicated by letters: R R R R R R R R, L L L L L L L L.

Buzz or Multiple Bounce Rolls

- 1) Play half way to the edge.
- 2) Low stick height/ p-mp dynamic level.
- 3) Apply slight pressure in the fulcrum.
- 4) Wrist speed should remain constant between single taps and buzz strokes.

As Written

5
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

13
R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R

17
R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for a drum exercise. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff starts at measure 5 and ends at measure 12. The second staff starts at measure 13 and ends at measure 17. The third staff starts at measure 17 and ends at measure 20. The fourth staff starts at measure 21 and ends at measure 24. Each staff contains rhythmic notation with notes and rests, and a corresponding line of letters (R for right hand, L for left hand) indicating the sequence of strokes. The notation includes various note values and rests, with some notes beamed together to indicate sixteenth notes. The letters are placed below the notes to indicate the hand used for each stroke.

Open or Double Stroke Rolls

- 1) Play in the center of the drum.
- 2) Higher stick height/ mf dynamic.
- 3) Less pressure in the fulcrum.
- 4) Wrist speed should remain constant between the taps and the double strokes.

As Written

21
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

25
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

29
R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R

33
R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R

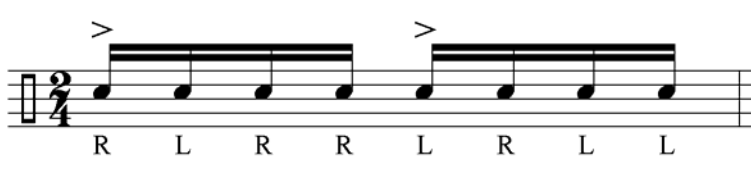
Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for a drum exercise. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff starts at measure 21 and ends at measure 24. The second staff starts at measure 25 and ends at measure 28. The third staff starts at measure 29 and ends at measure 32. The fourth staff starts at measure 33 and ends at measure 36. Each staff contains rhythmic notation with notes and rests, and a corresponding line of letters (R for right hand, L for left hand) indicating the sequence of strokes. The notation includes various note values and rests, with some notes beamed together to indicate sixteenth notes. The letters are placed below the notes to indicate the hand used for each stroke.

The 4 Fundamental Sounds in Drumming

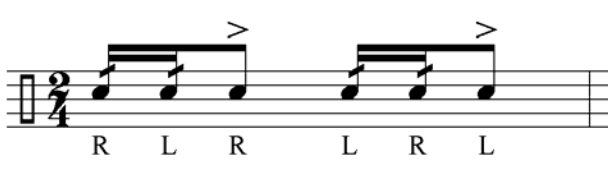
- 1) Single Tap
- 2) Double Tap
- 3) Multiple Bounce
- 4) Flam

All of the rudiments contain one or more of these sounds. Here are some examples.

Single Paradiddle - Contains singles and doubles



Five Stroke Roll - Contains double and single taps. **Eighth Note Roll** - If played as a buzz contains multiple bounce and single tap.



Flam Accent - Contains single taps, multiple bounce and flams.



Flam Tap - Contains multiple bounce and flams.



