

■ The
■ ■ Build-Up
■ ■ ■ Method

Simple. Efficient. Effective.

Percussion Basics Pack

Logical Skill Building for the Marching Percussionist

Full Stroke Breakdown

Shriver

Play 4 X's total:

1. R Fingers off
2. L Fingers off
3. R Fingers on
4. L Fingers on

The exercise is written on five staves in 4/4 time. The first staff shows a single stroke on the first beat with an upward arrow and a '4' above the staff. The second staff shows a sequence of strokes on the first beat, each with an upward arrow. The third staff shows a sequence of strokes on the first beat, each with an upward arrow. The fourth staff shows a sequence of strokes on the first beat, each with an upward arrow. The fifth staff shows a sequence of strokes on the first beat, each with a downward arrow. The notation includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4.

Focus on:

- All patterns: Play with a BIG sound, and very VERY relaxed
- Allow the stick to rebound as much as possible. Get a FULL rebound out of each stroke (do not slow the stick down as it comes back up)
- Fingers off versions: These will look sloppy, and that is OKAY. Focus on getting out of the way of the rebound, and be as efficient as possible in the motion

8-8-16s (Basic Patterns)

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Forte



Piano



Accent Pattern #1



Accent Pattern #2



Accent Pattern #3



Accent Pattern #4



Focus on:

- Consistency of strokes. Make every note look/sound/feel the same
- Balance right to left hands. Make both hands match in sound so the sticking changes aren't audible
- “Piano” version: focus on playing at a controlled volume, but still with a strong sound. Control every stroke with the wrist turn.
- “Accent” patterns: Focus on the taps between the accents. Make sure these taps look/sound/feel the same as the “piano” version. (Accents don't affect taps!)
- As tempos increase, bring the accents lower, but avoid making the taps higher

8th Note Timing

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Play 4 X's total

The image contains four staves of musical notation, each with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 4/4. The notation is as follows:

- Staff 1: Starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The first measure has a quarter rest followed by an 8th note F#4. The second measure has an 8th rest followed by an 8th note G#4. The third measure has a quarter rest followed by an 8th note A4. The fourth measure has an 8th rest followed by an 8th note B4. A 'P' (pedal) marking is under the first measure.
- Staff 2: The first measure has a quarter rest followed by an 8th note F#4. The second measure has an 8th rest followed by an 8th note G#4. The third measure has a quarter rest followed by an 8th note A4. The fourth measure has an 8th rest followed by an 8th note B4.
- Staff 3: The first measure has a quarter rest followed by an 8th note F#4. The second measure has an 8th rest followed by an 8th note G#4. The third measure has a quarter rest followed by an 8th note A4. The fourth measure has an 8th rest followed by an 8th note B4. A 'P' (pedal) marking is under the first measure.
- Staff 4: The first measure has a quarter rest followed by an 8th note F#4. The second measure has an 8th rest followed by an 8th note G#4. The third measure has a quarter rest followed by an 8th note A4. The fourth measure has an 8th rest followed by an 8th note B4. A 'P' (pedal) marking is under the first measure.

Focus on:

- Being relaxed for every stroke
- Have a smooth "prep" lifting before each note
- Make sure you understand where every note lines up to the downbeats
- Move your feet, move your body, move something to help keep a steady groove in the space!

"Met Removal" Version:

- Rep 1: All met in
- Rep 2: Half-note met
- Rep 3: Whole-note met
- Rep 4: NO met!

9-8 Taps

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Regular (piano)



Accents



Inverted Accents



Focus on:

- Every tap should feel the same, regardless of pattern
- Get a BIG sound at a low height, work your wrist turn specifically!
- When adding accents, focus on the timing of the 1st tap after every accent (will probably be early)
- Accent Pattern: Relax the motion before each accent, don't be afraid to be fluid. try initiating your arm motion 1 beat before each accent
- Inverted Accents: Work on moving quickly to the accent (don't be late because it's a quick motion!)

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Focus on:

- Consistent 2-heights, every accent feeling the same, and every tap feeling the same
- Make sure you understand where each accent lines up with the downbeat
- Balancing Right to Left hands, especially the taps

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16th Timing, 1-Note

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4's

f first time
p second time

2's

1's

R

Focus on:

- Getting a consistently smooth motion, especially at "forte". Work with the rebound, and be fluid!
- Consistency of rhythms, make sure you understand where each isolated note fits in time with the downbeat
- Relaxed hands and achieving an open sound (keep fingers relaxed, and let the stick BOUNCE)

4's

2's

1's

R

Focus on:

- When adding the accents, do not change the approach to the underlined notes ("taps"). These should look/sound/feel exactly the same as the "piano" version!
- Consistency of rhythms, make sure you understand where each isolate note fits in time with the downbeat
- Relaxed hands on the downstrokes. Control the rebound to achieve 2-heights, but do not squeeze the stick to make this happen. Work on quality of sound on downstrokes!

Stick Control 4-2-1

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"Right Hand Threes"

4's

2's

p first time
f second time

1's

"Left Hand Threes"

4's

2's

1's

"Four Strokes"

4's

2's

1's

"Double Strokes"

4's

2's

1's

Focus on:

- Turning your wrist for each individual stroke, while staying relaxed (don't just BOUNCE the stick, make sure your wrist does the work)
- Getting every note to sound/look/feel the same, regardless of the sticking
- When playing piano: Don't let the heights diminish when playing multi-strokes
- When playing forte: Don't stress heights as much, but focus on volumes especially (heights can diminish while remaining the same volume depending on the wrist support)

Double Beat - Triple Beat

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Double Beat

Handwritten musical notation for Double Beat exercises. The first staff begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic marking. The notation consists of two staves of music, each with four measures. The first staff contains double strokes (R) and the second staff contains triple strokes (L). The notation is as follows:

Staff 1: *f* R R R R R R / R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R

Staff 2: L L L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L

Triple Beat

Handwritten musical notation for Triple Beat exercises. The notation consists of two staves of music, each with four measures. The first staff contains triple strokes (R) and the second staff contains double strokes (L). The notation is as follows:

Staff 1: R R R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R

Staff 2: L L L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L R

Focus on:

- Accurate Rhythms (Listen for the space between each double/triple stroke, and make sure they are proper 16th notes)
- Consistency of volumes, make sure 2nd and 3rd strokes are as strong as 1st stroke
- Relaxed hands and achieving an open sound (keep fingers relaxed, and let the stick BOUNCE)

Double Beat

Handwritten musical notation for Double Beat exercises. The first staff begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The notation consists of two staves of music, each with four measures. The first staff contains double strokes (R) and the second staff contains triple strokes (L). The notation is as follows:

Staff 1: *p* R R R R R R / R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R

Staff 2: L L L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L

Triple Beat

Handwritten musical notation for Triple Beat exercises. The notation consists of two staves of music, each with four measures. The first staff contains triple strokes (R) and the second staff contains double strokes (L). The notation is as follows:

Staff 1: R R R R R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R R

Staff 2: L L L L L L L L L L L L R R R R R R R R R R L R

Focus on:

- Same as above ^
- When playing low, keep the grip a little more "firm" without tensing up. The fingers won't be AS loose as when playing at "forte"
- Making sure your wrist moves twice for every double stroke, and three times for every triple stroke (don't just drop the stick and hope for rebound!)

Duple Rolls

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1 R Diddle



p first time
f second time

This exercise is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four measures of music. The first measure is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and contains a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note. The second measure is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and contains a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note. The third and fourth measures each contain a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note.

All R Diddies



This exercise is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four measures of music. Each measure contains a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note.

1 L Diddle



This exercise is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four measures of music. Each measure contains a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note.

All L Diddies



This exercise is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four measures of music. Each measure contains a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note.

Rolls



This exercise is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four measures of music. Each measure contains a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note.

Tap Rolls



This exercise is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four measures of music. Each measure contains a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth rest, then a quarter note.

Focus on:

- Work on rhythmic accuracy, make sure you are playing perfect 8th and 16th notes
- Balance Right to Left hands, make sure heights AND intensity match to keep volumes even
- Quality of sound on the second note of every double stroke, make sure the double strokes are two equal notes
- Avoid relying on the rebound to play the doubles, work on turning the wrist for each stroke and placing every note

Triplet Timing, 1-Note

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4's

f first time
p second time

2's

1's

Focus on:

- Getting a consistently smooth motion, especially at "forte". Work with the rebound, and be fluid!
- Consistency of rhythms, make sure you understand where each isolated note fits in time with the downbeat
- Relaxed hands and achieving an open sound (keep fingers relaxed, and let the stick BOUNCE)

4's

2's

1's

Focus on:

- When adding the accents, do not change the approach to the underlined notes ("taps"). These should look/sound/feel exactly the same as the "piano" version!
- Consistency of rhythms, make sure you understand where each isolate note fits in time with the downbeat
- Relaxed hands on the downstrokes. Control the rebound to achieve 2-heights, but do not squeeze the stick to make this happen. Work on quality of sound on downstrokes!

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Duple - Triplet Rolls

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example: ♩ = 180

1 R Diddle



All R Diddles



1 L Diddle



All L Diddles



Rolls



Tap Rolls

example: ♩ = 120



1 R Diddle



All R Diddles



1 L Diddle



All L Diddles



Rolls



Tap Rolls



Focus on:

- These two exercises back-to-back change "feel" but not "speed"
- They should sound exactly the same, even though the groove and metronome will change
- The goal is to keep the high energy of **Duple Rolls**, and make sure that energy remains when playing "slower" in **Triplet Rolls**

Triplet Rolls

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1 R Diddle



All R Diddles



1 L Diddle



All L Diddles



Rolls



Tap Rolls



Focus on:

- Work on rhythmic accuracy, make sure you are playing perfect 12th and 24th notes
- Balance Right to Left hands, make sure heights AND intensity match to keep volumes even
- Quality of sound on the second note of every double stroke, make sure the double strokes are two equal notes
- Avoid relying on the rebound to play the doubles, work on turning the wrist for each stroke and placing every note

Flam Breakdown

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1

Pattern #1: Single Hand



Pattern #2: Two Height, downbeats



Pattern #3: Two Height, upbeats



Pattern #4: Alternated



Focus on:

- Work on consistent heights, especially keeping ALL taps the same height
- Place every grace note with a wrist turn, play the same as you would play an isolated "tap"
- Make sure the grace notes do not disrupt the flow of the check patterns
- Work on every flam sounding the same: "cha"

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Focus on:

- Keep the space after every downstroke, make sure the first tap does not come in early
- Consistent grace notes spacing. Make sure every flam has the same "tightness" to it
- Maintaining the motion as the patterns progress. The 1st bar of each pattern sets the flow of the exercise, do not change this as you add in notes each following bar
- Place the low triple strokes with 3 solid wrist turns. The stick should bounce, but do not rely solely on the rebound, get your wrist to do the work to help control and quality of sound

Flam Tap Breakdown

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The image shows three staves of musical notation for a flam tap exercise. The first two staves are in 4/4 time and feature a series of triplets of eighth notes, each marked with an accent (>). The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The second staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The third staff is in 4/4 time and features a single eighth note marked with an accent (>), followed by a rest for the remainder of the measure. The notation is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs).

RRRRRRRRRRRRRR RRR RRR RRR RRR RR LRR LRR LRR L RR L RR LRR LRR L RR LL RRR LL RR LL RR LL RR LL RRR LL RRR LL RR LL

LLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL LLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL LL RLL RLL RLL R LL R LL RLL RLL R LL RRR LL RRR LL RR LL RR LL RRR LL RRR LL RR LL

R

Focus on:

- Approach each triple stroke the same way regardless of pattern (Don't let the opposite hand affect the dominate hand)
- Do not stress "heights". Flam taps should be very relaxed and "full", Accents are not a typical "downstroke", and should be allowed to rebound
- When playing grace notes in motion (example: Bar 3), allow the grace note to be the same volume as the previous tap. Don't try to drop the hand lower to play the grace note
- Grace note consistency is key: Try to play every flam with the same spacing as the exercise develops
- As tempos increase, the flow becomes more important, allow the difference between Accent and Tap heights to change as speeds progress

Paradiddles Exercise

With Build-Up Patterns

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Focus on:

- Accurate Rhythms. Taps after Accents will tend to be early, work on controlling the first tap after every accent
- Controlled heights. Accents should flow and be big/relaxed, but downstrokes still need to happen for the taps to be controlled in volume/height
- Quality of sound in stickings. Don't let the stickings be audible, work on every note sounding the same regardless of sticking.
- Every breakdown culminates into Pattern #5. Try to "feel" the breakdowns when playing #5 to better understand tendencies with the exercise