## Claus Hessler's

# Lamp Duty Update

Snare Drum Rudiments: Bridging the Gap Between Past and Present

- History of European and American Drumming Traditions
- Traditional Pieces taken from the U.S. Camp & Garrison Duty
- · A Guideline for the Interpretation of Rudiments
- Modern Versions of Rudimental Classics and Quicksteps & Play-alongs







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Sadly, Vic Firth and Joe Hibbs both passed away before the English version of this book was completed. Both were unique in their love and passion for drumming and truly believed in supporting music education. This book is dedicated to their memory.

## **About the author**

In the drumming world Claus Hessler is famous not only as an institution for the Moeller Technique, but also as an author of drumming education standards through his international publications Open Handed Playing Vol. 1 and 2, Daily Drumset Workout, and his double DVD Drumming Kairos.

As a clinician Claus is active all over the world. You might meet him at drum events reaching from Mexico to Australia. He also regularly writes for drum magazines such as Modern Drummer and drums & percussion.

Claus holds a teaching post at the Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst (University for Music and Performing Arts) in Frankfurt, Germany. As the first European ever he was honoured to be awarded with the title of Distinguished Professor at Keimyung University in Daegu, South–Korea.

Claus endorses Mapex Drums, Sabian Cymbals, Evans Drumheads, Vic Firth Sticks, and Cooperman Rope Tension Drums.

Find out more at www.claushessler.com.

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### **PREFACE**

There are two major reasons for writing this book. First, I want to shed a little more light onto the many not so well-known facts about the origins of rudiments which many of today's drummers don't really seem to have any real idea about. Though most top drummers would say that at least a basic study of the rudiments is an important foundation of their art form, their history and European roots are in danger of being forgotten. Second, I hope to awaken an interest and passion for this special field of drumming that has massively influenced the way modern drumset playing has evolved. In this book I've mostly taken tunes from the US Camp & Garrison Duty—hence the title Claus Hessler's Camp Duty Update.

When teaching I often find that no stylistically adequate musical imagination goes into the rendition of a special pattern or tune, in particular regarding the choice of tempo, sound and phrasing. Alternatively, when there is an attempt at interpretation, there is often interference from other musical influences that have nothing at all to do with the 'original' sound. Just as the genres of Jazz and certain forms of Latin–Music have their special characteristics and touch, so the different schools of rudimental traditions have distinguishing stylistic features as well, and their musical performance can only truly be authentic when these are observed. When it comes to rudiments (the core of our drumming world) we neglect this somehow and seem to be content with certain tuition books or a poster on the wall of our rehearsal studio, rather than thinking about how the music is supposed to sound.

By examining a selection of historical stages of rudimental drumming I have tried to add more understanding to the field. On the other hand, I noticed that the number of interesting details just exploded once I started digging deeper, almost keeping me from doing what my true intention was: to help people improve their rudiment–playing skills. I hope to have found a reasonable compromise by also focusing on the music that would accompany the drumming. That said, another important goal has been to avoid limiting the book just to superficial details that might then be misleading for future generations of drummers.

The traditional pieces in this book can of course be understood as milestones of drumming, sometimes dating back 200 years and more; usually both the drum parts and melodies have evolved over time. Although many of the ancient versions are quite simple in structure, it seems that these need particular attention and care when it comes to creating a true musical rendition. My own interpretations (the *Another* versions which can be heard on the accompanying CD) are mostly influenced by Basle drumming, French traditional elements and contemporary American rudimental drumming. What I have found is that many of the more traditional patterns gain clarity and musical flow once you start considering an underlying rhythmic structure of quintuplets. You are encouraged to refer to the additional exercises in the papendix (which follow the same structure as in my publication Daily Drumset Workout).

**V** See pp. 73.

A few words regarding the CD: The play-alongs with a real 'fife' will help to add more musical authenticity; each rendition of the tunes also comes with a slightly slowed-down version. Also, every track has a click counting you in. This way you can also practice playing along with my rendition on the CD. You could even make it a duo performance with yourself playing the original score and me playing the Another version—or vice versa.

Two more things before we get going:

Any style of music and any written piece of music is open to individual interpretation, and the tunes in this book are no different. I tried to find a form of notation that is as true to the intended sound as possible, conveying the structure in the best possible way and yet remaining easy to read and understand.

Secondly, you don't have to have a real 'field drum' in order to make use of this material; you can of course also just use a regular snare! I am closing this preface with a statement I found during the research for this book. It combines basically everything that drumming is about to me:

"... take pride in making it look easy and beat your duty with spirit!"

## Claus Hessler

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## MP3 CD

All tracks have a four-bar count-off. On tunes in  $\frac{2}{4}$  ime, the BPM-info relates to the quarter-notes; on tunes in  $\frac{6}{8}$ -time the tempo information relates to the dotted quarter-notes.

Track#	Title	. bpm	time
01	Air des Fifres ou Hautbois	<del>-</del>	
02	Air des Fifres ou Hautbois—Roulée		
03	Air des Fifres ou Hautbois—Routee		
04	Air des Fifres ou Hautbois—Play-along slow		
05	Three Camps	110 hpm	01.11
06	Another Three Camps	110 bpiii	01.11
07	Three Camps—Play-along		
08	Three Camps—Play-along slow	i i o bpiii	01.10
08	Breakfast Call.	110 hpm	00.30
10	Another Breakfast Call		00.37
11	Breakfast Call—Play—along	110 bpill	00.37
12	Breakfast Call—Play—along slow		00.37
13	Dinner Call	9.4 bpm	00.43
13	Another Dinner Call	9.4 bpm	00.36
15			
16	Dinner Call—Play-along  Dinner Call—Play-along slow	opin	00.30
1 <i>7</i>	Dusky Night—Original Version No. 1	94 hom	00.46
18	Dusky Night Original Version No. 1	bpm	00.46
19	Dusky Night—Original Version No. 2	oo opm	00:40
20	Another Dusky Night	oo bpm	00:40
21	Dusky Night Play glong day	phil	
22	The Slow Seatch	06 hpm	
23	The Slow Scotch—Play—along	90 bpm	01.37
23 24	The Slow Scotch—Play—along slow	bpm	U1.3/ 
25	Another Slow Scotch		01.40 
26	Another Slow Scotch—Play-along		02.12
27	Another Slow Scotch Play along slow	bpiii	02.11
28	Another Slow Scotch—Play—along slow	08 hpm	02.20
29	The Downfall of Paris  Another Downfall  The Downfall of Paris—Play—along.		02:05
30	The Downfall of Paris—Play-glong		02:05
31	The Downfall of Paris—Play-along slow	bpiii	02.19
32	Garryowen	112 hpm	01.19
33	Garryowen Play-along Garryowen—Play-along slow	112 bpm	01.17
34	Garryowen—Play-along slow		01.28
35	Another Garryowen	112 bpm	01:00
36	Another Garryowen—Play-along	112 bpm	.00:58
37	Another Garryowen—Play-along slow		
38	Dixie	98 bpm	.01:46
39	Another Dixie		
40	Dixie—Play-along		
41	Dixie—Play-along slow	o op	.01:57
42	Yankee Doodle	108 bpm	.01:00
43	Yankee Doodle	bpm	.01:00
44	Yankee Doodle—Play-along		
45	Yankee Doodle—Play-along slow	I	.01:07
46	British Grenadiers	bpm	.00:48
47	Another Grenadier	ppm	.00:48
48	British Grenadiers—Play-along		.00:48
49	British Grenadiers—Play-along slow		
	, ,		

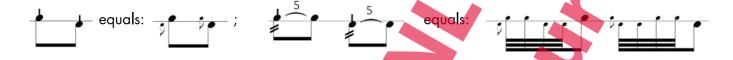
Matthias Dörsam: Piccolo Fife | I | Claus Hessler: Cooperman Rope Tension Drum

## **NOTATION**

1. Right-hand strokes are notated above the line, left-hand strokes below the line. Left-handed players can just reverse this if they wish.



2. For flams we use an abbreviated form using a little line inside the notehead. This applies both to single strokes and rolls:



See pp. 21.

3. Drags 1 3–stroke rolls are mostly written using traditional notation. Their interpretation tends towards being very 'open' (also see remarks on the 'drag' in → chapter 1).



See pp. 73.

See pp. 79.

4. With rolls we frequently make use of unusual rhythmic layers; check out the two examples as well as → appendices 1 and 2. In certain cases 1 also gave additional information in connection with the pieces themselves.



5. Sometimes it is difficult to show a 'roll-like' phrase using abbreviated notation. In certain cases I have thus chosen to write patterns using noteheads of different sizes, which also improves the readability of the phrase:



### CHAPTER 1 | HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

It was at a pretty early stage in preparing this book when I came to realize that it would not just be about the tunes themselves but also about painting a picture of the vast culture of rudimental drumming, its history and evolution.

Every now and then, for example, my students will hear me say, "Know your enemies!" when it comes to working intensively on a rudiment or pattern. This is a statement made in jest, of course, but what I mean is that you need to have a background awareness of what it is that you are to learn. This takes us to the very first question: What really is a rudiment?

## **RUDIMENTS: A DEFINITION**

The word *rudiment* is actually of Latin descent; *rudimentum* literally describes something like a first attempt or test run. The *rudis*, for instance, was a wooden sword used by gladiators for training purposes. Today we have different uses for this term, the most common ones being:

- A leftover, or fragment.
- In medical terms, something which is underdeveloped or unused (e.g. human hair, caecum, fingernails).
- The basic or elementary principles of a certain matter or issue.

For the purpose of this book I'd like to suggest this definition of rudiments:

## DEFINITION

Rudiments are mostly fragments of tunes from the Camp Duty of the U.S.themselves based on European drumming traditions. In the proper sense a rudiment today is an excerpt of a traditional military 'march' or 'call' with (more or less):

- defined rhythm
- defined dynamic structure
- defined sticking
- defined nomenclature.

The names of the phrases are often onomatopoeic (meaning they emulate the original sound) e.g. paradiddle, ratamacue, flam, pataflafla). Sometimes the names also refer to the structure of the phrase (e.g. 5–stroke roll, double–drag tap). The first agreement on 26 basic rudiments was reached in 1933 by the NARD (National Association of Rudimental Drummers) and was mostly based on prior literature (Strube, Ashworth, Potter; see → appendix 3: sources and material used).



Rudiments have always been connected to the evolution of the (snare) drum and its use in the military. The relevant literature makes several references to the fact that the crusades brought significant stimulus to Europe, both relating to drumming style and the instruments used. This also seems to be the reason why it was mostly the crusading nations who developed some kind of rudimental drumming tradition.

Drums and flags have always been regarded as superior trophies of war and retained their special significance well into modern times. Even in *World War II* there are reports recording that all efforts would be made to avoid the capturing of drums by the enemy. Of course the very first evidence of drumming dates from around 30,000 years ago. For us, however, things start to get interesting somewhere around the medieval times. Switzerland and the neighbouring French and German regions were of particular importance, but the records also include early references to Italy, England, Prussia and the Dutch provinces.