

Table of Contents

About the Author	3	The Next Steps	23
Getting Started	4	The Metronome	23
Parts of the Drumset	5	Accent Patterns	24
Shopping for Your Drumset.....	6	Sixteenth Notes	26
Parts of the Snare Drum	6	Sixteenth-Note Exercises.....	27
Tuning the Drums.....	8	Rudiment: The Five-Stroke Roll	27
Holding the Drumsticks	8	Rudiment: The Six-Stroke Roll	28
Counting Exercises	9	More Sixteenth-Note Exercises.....	29
Reading Music	11	Combination Exercises	30
Beats and Note Values	11	Getting Started on the Drumset	31
The Staff.....	11	Sitting at the Drumset	31
Measures.....	11	Basic Drumset Notation	31
Time Signatures.....	12	Playing the Bass Drum	32
The Quarter Rest	12	Playing the Hi-Hat.....	33
Repeat Signs	13	Adding the Bass Drum to the Hi-Hat	34
Snare Drum Exercises	13	Eighth Notes on the Hi-Hat	35
Half Rests and Whole Rests	14	Bass Drum Variations	36
Eighth Notes	15	Eighth-Note Rhythms for the Bass Drum.....	37
Basic Techniques	16	Beats in a Longer Form	39
Basic Stroke Technique.....	16	Getting Around the Drumset	40
Rudiment: The Single-Stroke Roll	17	Drum Fills.....	41
Rudiment: The Double-Stroke Roll	18	Crashing the Cymbal.....	42
Rudiment: The Paradiddle	19	Playing the Ride Cymbal.....	43
The Eighth Rest	20	Stepped Hi-Hat.....	44
Rudiment: The Three-Stroke Roll.....	21	Open and Closed Hi-Hat	46
Review Exercise	22	A Few Final Words	47

Track 1



A compact disc is included with this book. This disc can make learning with the book easier and more enjoyable. This symbol will appear next to every exercise that is on the CD. Use the CD to help ensure that you are capturing the feel of the exercises, interpreting the rhythms correctly, and so on. The track numbers next the symbols correspond directly to the exercise you want to hear. Track 1 explains how the CD works. Have fun!

● Counting Exercises

The drummer's main function in a musical group is to keep time with precision and consistency. One way you can begin to do this is to practice counting. Have you ever heard a band start a song by having the drummer count 1–2–3–4? This *count off* lets everyone in the band know two important things:

1. What the tempo of the song is.
2. When to start playing.

Let's begin by practicing some important counting exercises that will help you play. First, count aloud, 1–2–3–4, 1–2–3–4, over and over, keeping a steady tempo.

Once you're able to do this verbal count, move on to playing on the snare drum. (You can also use a practice pad, which is a rubber mat that allows you to practice when no drum is handy.) Count 1–2–3–4 as you play with just the right hand, hitting the drum as you say each number. (If you're left handed, you can reverse these instructions.) Make sure that your playing and counting are perfectly matched up and that your tempo is steady.

Exercise 1



Count:	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Play:	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R

R = Right hand

Now change the *sticking* (hand pattern) to right–left–right–left, one hand following the other. As before, count out loud: 1–2–3–4, 1–2–3–4.

Exercise 2



Count:	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Play:	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L

L = Left hand

Try tapping your foot to the count. To begin, just tap your foot without playing to get a feel for it.

Exercise 3



Count:	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Tap:	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F

F = Foot tap

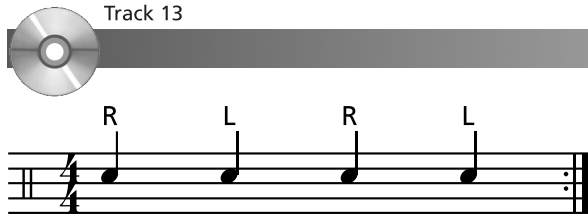
● Rudiment: The Single-Stroke Roll

Rudiments, the basic playing vocabulary of the drums, have been around for years. The first rudiment we'll look at is the *single-stroke roll*. The single-stroke roll uses one stroke per hand: R-L-R-L. (Left-handed players can reverse these instructions—that is, start with the left hand and alternate the hands.) Listen as you play to make sure that your playing is even and that the hands sound the same.

Here's an Exercise of the single-stroke roll using quarter notes:

Exercise 12

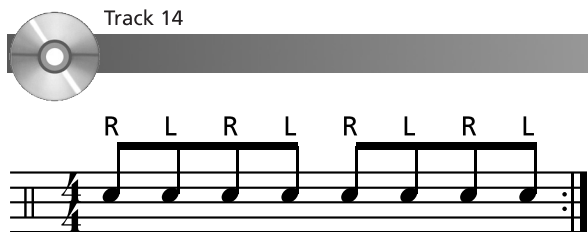
Track 13



Here's an exercise of the single-stroke roll using eighth notes:

Exercise 13

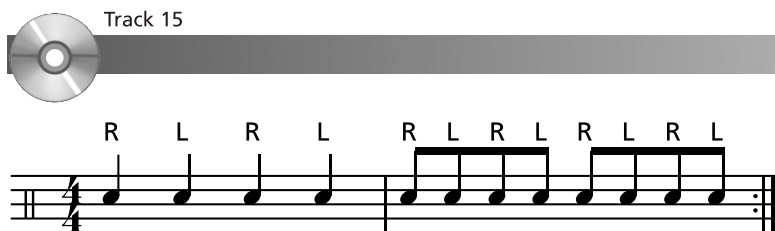
Track 14



Exercise 14 begins with quarter notes and changes to eighth notes. Be sure to maintain the single-stroke sticking as you make the transition.

Exercise 14

Track 15



This exercise will help develop your ability to play the single-stroke roll. Remember that each half note has a value of two beats.

Exercise 15

Track 16

