

PREFACE

It seems that there are too many drummers whose work is of a rough-and-ready variety and whose technical proficiency suffers in comparison with that of the players of other instruments.

Of course, technical proficiency can come only through continued, well-directed practise. The more practise one does the more proficiency he acquires.

Many concert pianists practise hours and hours every day. They continue practising after they graduate from the student period and enter into the professional field. Violinists, cornetists and the players of other instruments do likewise. Through regular and systematic practise they “keep in shape.”

To the uninitiated, the art of drumming appears easy—so easy in fact that unless the drum student has had the advantage of expert advice, he may fail to realize the importance of the long hours of hard, painstaking practise that must be put in before he is technically prepared to enter the professional field with the confidence that his efforts will measure up to approved musical standards.

However, in defence of the drummer, let it be noted that while the pianist and violinist have access to many hundreds of elementary and advanced text-books, covering every known branch of their art, the drummer’s library is limited to a score or so of instruction books, and not all of these containing the specific type, or generous amount of practise material necessary to the development of that high degree of fundamental mechanical dexterity required from the modern drummer.

It is in realization of this need and in answer to requests from drum instructors in all parts of the country that this series of practise-rhythms has been prepared and presented herewith under the title of:—

“STICK CONTROL—For The Snare Drummer”

“STICK CONTROL” is a highly specialized practise-book, dealing with just one branch of the art of drumming. It is an advanced book, consisting of a progressive, highly concentrated collection of rhythms, arranged in calisthenic form, which, if practised regularly and intelligently, will enable one to acquire control, speed, flexibility, touch, rhythm, lightness, delicacy, power, endurance, preciseness of execution and muscular co-ordination to a degree far in excess of his present ability.

“STICK CONTROL” is intended to develop finger, wrist, and arm muscles, which to the rudimental drummer, playing in exhibition or contest, means speed, power and endurance, and to the orchestral drummer, specializing in lighter types of playing, means clean, crisp execution, precise interpretation and flexibility of control, especially in the “pianissimo” rolls and delicate shading.

“STICK CONTROL” contains a wealth of material for the development of the drummer’s weak or awkward hand (which to the right handed individual is his left), thereby enabling him to acquire ambidexterity in a sufficient degree for smooth, rhythmic hand-to-hand execution. Its stick-work being entirely mechanical in scope, “STICK CONTROL” does not conflict with any of the known “systems” of drumming, therefore any instructor may assign its pages, at his discretion, concurrently with his regular assignment to the pupil. The expert instructor will find in the rhythms of “STICK CONTROL” an abundance of material designed to make his own daily “work-out” more interesting and productive.

An hour a day with “STICK CONTROL” will work wonders for one, whether he be rudimental exhibitionist or concert drummer; student or expert; jazz drummer or symphonist. The only vital requirement for this book (or, indeed, for any drum instruction book) is regular practise; and, to the student, the author recommends the services of a local expert instructor, whenever such services are available.

GEORGE LAWRENCE STONE

Single Beat Combinations

Read downward

1 
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

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

2 
L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

14 
R L R L R R L L R L R L R R L L

3 
R R L L R R L L R R L L R R L L

15 
L R L R L L R R L R L R L L R R

4 
L L R R L L R R L L R R L L R R

16 
R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L L

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

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

6 
R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L

18 
R L R L R R L R L R L R L L R L

7 
R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L

19 
R L R L R R R L R L R L R R R L

8 
R L R L L R L R R L R L R L L R L R

20 
L R L R L L L R L R L R L L L R

9 
R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L

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

10 
L L L R L L L R L L L R L L L R

22 
L R L R L R R R L R L R L R R R

11 
R L L L R L L L R L L L R L L L

23 
R L R L R R R R L R L R L L L L

12 
L R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R

24 
R R L L R L R R L L R R L R L L

* R = right stick
L = left stick

Repeat each exercise 20 times.

