

Beginning Timpani Exercises

Single Strokes

Practise single strokes on the timpani with a relaxed downstroke that leads smoothly into an upstroke as soon as the mallet strikes the head. Be sure the mallet is moving straight up and down. Watch that the mallets are dropped from, and return to, the same height. Listen for an even attack. Practise all the stickings.

R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R

Practise moving between the drums. Facing straight ahead, you will turn slightly from the waist as you play on each one. Keep your arms relaxed at your sides, and your hands in the same position in front of you as you move from drum to drum.

R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L

Sticking patterns

Practise the following patterns to get used to the best hand to start on when moving quickly from drum to drum. Remember, odd groups start on the outside hand, even groups start on the inside hand.

R L R R L R L R L L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L

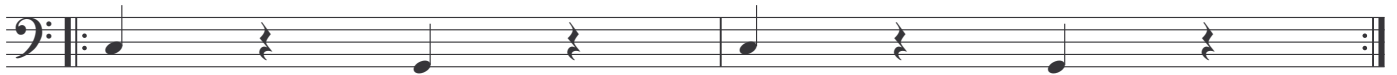
L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L

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Dampening (muffling) exercises

The following exercises should be practised four ways:

- 1) striking all notes with the right hand and dampening with the left
- 2) striking all notes with the left hand and dampening with the right
- 3) striking the "C" with the right hand and dampening with the right hand
- 4) striking the "G" with the left hand and dampening with the left hand



In the following exercises, each drum is dampened by the same hand that plays the stroke. You will have to dampen a drum with one hand at the *exact* same time you're striking the drum with the other.

x = dampen the note previously played on the line or space

