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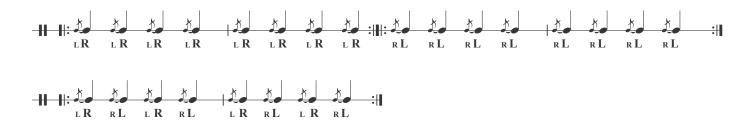
Approaching Flams: Notes and Exercises

Preparing for the easy duet *FLAMable*

In order to properly balance the two notes that make up the flam, the stick playing the louder principal note must be dropped from a higher level than the stick playing the quieter grace note. These levels must remain consistent at whatever dynamic is being performed. At first, have your students practise releasing the stick from about 2-3 inches above the drum for the grace note and about 8-9 inches above the drum for the principal note. (These levels will change, of course, as the students practise at different volumes.)

Students should begin practising flams with all possible stickings: consecutive right hand flams (where the right hand plays the main note), left hand flams, and then alternating right to left hand flams.

NOTE: The grace note is played very close to the principal note. Both notes together should sound more like the word "flam" than "ta-dum".



After becoming comfortable with the above stickings, it is important for students to practise flams within the context of a musical line.

Beginning snare drummers, reading a line of music incorporating flams for the first time, are never sure which hand will play the grace note and which hand will play the principal note. Practising the following patterns will help them overcome this problem.

They *must* practise these patterns *slowly* and *thoughtfully* - watching that the louder principal note is always dropped from a higher level than the grace note, and listening for a *consistent* sounding flam.

