

# Stock Exercises

2014 Cascades Drum & Bugle Corps Percussion

## Individual Practice Method

- Use a mirror, a metronome, a matched pair of sticks, and a practice pad or a drum.
- Organize your practice time similar to how an ensemble rehearses: Repetition, Correction, and Execution.
- Consistently refine techniques described in the technique manual.
- Strictly follow "All The Black On The Page", e.g., rhythms, dynamics, stickings, tempos, etc.
- Be patient enough to be critical of yourself during consecutive repetitions, but be careful to not become passive and stagnant through long sessions of unfocused playing. Always practice with a focused, effective, and efficient method.

## Musical Definitions

### Stickings:

- **R** = Accented Right Hand, **L** = Accented Left Hand
- **r & l** = Right and Left at  $p/3$ " notes during a crescendo or decrescendo, and special instructions, e.g., variations of an exercise.
- Two note heads together on the same stem without a sticking is a **Doublestop**.
- Stickings inform how we play the notes, but do not effect the integrity of the musical statement. **Strive for evenness of sound between the hands at all times, and do not let the stickings alter the rhythmic interpretation.**

### Strokes

- **V = Velocity/Legato Strokes:** Using velocity and rebound, the head of the stick starts and returns to the same dynamic height. Velocity strokes at  $p/3$ " are commonly referred to as **taps**, or notes being played at **tap height**.
- **C = Control/Down Strokes:** After initiating velocity, the rebound is controlled lower than the initial dynamic height. As a result of the controlled rebound, the head of the stick will start at a high dynamic height and end at a lower dynamic height.
- **U = Upstrokes:** Velocity strokes played at **tap height**, then artificially rebounded, using wrist turn, to a higher dynamic. The head will start at a low dynamic height and end at a higher dynamic height.

### Dynamics

A musical staff with seven measures, each containing a series of eighth notes. Above each measure is a dynamic marking: *pp*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, and *fff*. Above the notes are labels for stick heights: "< 3 inches", "3 inches (Tap Height)", "6 inches", "9 inches", "12 inches", "15 inches", and "> 15 inches".

- The written dynamic within a phrase only refers to the height of the accented notes. The following example demonstrates how we interpret written dynamics in a musical phrase:

A musical staff with six measures of eighth notes. The first measure is marked *f*. Above the notes are stickings: R l r L r l R L, R l r r L r l l, R l r L r l R L, and R. The notes are accented (>).

Dynamic heights would be interpreted as:

A musical staff with six measures of eighth notes, identical to the previous one. Below the notes are dynamic markings: 12, 3, 3, 12, 12, 12, 12, 3, 3, 3, 12, 3, 3, 3, 12, 3, 3, 12, 12. The first measure is marked *f*.

### - Crescendos & Decrescendos...

A musical staff with six measures of eighth notes. The first measure is marked *p* and the last is marked *f*. The notes are accented (>). Stickings are r l r l, R, R l r l, and r.

...would be interpreted as...

A musical staff with six measures of eighth notes, identical to the previous one. Below the notes are dynamic markings: 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 12, 9, 6, 4, 3. The first measure is marked *p* and the last is marked *p*.

## Musical Notation

### - Snare \*

A musical staff with 14 measures, each containing a single note with a different snare technique indicated by an accent mark (^) and a label below: Accent, Tenudo, Flam, Diddle, Rimshot, Rim, Sticklick, Buzz, DryCrush, FatCrush, Stickshot, Muffled, Backstick, and Doublestop.

### - Tenors

A musical staff with 14 measures, each containing a single note with a different tenor technique indicated by a label below: 1, 2, 3, 4, Spock, Skank, Muffle, Neighbor's\_Drum, and Crossovers (r r l l rx rx lx lx).

### - Basses

A musical staff with 7 measures, each containing a single note with a different bass technique indicated by a label below: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Unison, and Rim.

\*Tenors and Basses also refer to some of the Snare notation.



