

# Tips, tricks, and helpful ideas for teaching percussionists

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## Grip and Stroke:

- ☐ “Dead Hand” (**Relax**)
  - Thumb directly across from the pointer finger
  - Thumb print on the stick (on the “TH” if using Vic Firth)
  - Nestle stick into the first joint of the pointer finger
  - Hands flat- thumb nails pointing toward each other
  - Roof top (90 degrees)
- ☐ All motion comes from the wrist only- no elbow, no fingers (yet)
  - Rebound!
  - Start with full strokes- full range of motion
  - Don’t have them play soft until the grip and stroke are set

Use practice pads to help students develop full wrist strokes

## The very beginning:

- RRRR RRRR LLLL LLLL
- RRRR LLLL RRRR LLLL
- RRLl RRLl RRLl RRLl
- RLRL RLRL RLRL RLRL

A grid of 12 small musical notation examples on a dark blue background. Each example shows a sequence of notes on a staff with 'R' and 'L' labels below them. The examples include: 1. R L R L; 2. R (L) R L; 3. R L R (L); 4. R L (R) L; 5. R L R L; 6. R (L) R L; 7. R L R (L); 8. R L (R) L; 9. R L R L; 10. R (L) R L; 11. R L R (L); 12. R L (R) L.

Three lines of musical notation on a light background. Each line shows a sequence of notes on a staff with 'R' and 'L' labels below them. The first line is R (L) R L, the second is R L (R) L, and the third is (R) L R L.

1 *RLRRL*

2 *RRLRL*

3 *RLRLR*

4 *RLRL*

5 *RLRLRL*

A 6 *RRLRLR*

7 *RLRLRL*

A 8 *RLRLRL*

9 *RLRLRL*

A 10 *RRLRLRL*

**20-Bar Exercise**

1

2

5

9

1

RLRR

2

RRLR

20

RRLRLR R

33

RRLRLRLRLR RRLR

9

RLRRLR R

23

RLRRLR

34

RLRRLRLRLRLR

14

RRLRRLR

24

RRLRLR R

35

RRLRLRRLRLRLR

17

RLRRLR

26

RRLRLRLR

36

RLRLRLRLRLRLRLR

Accents

Good accent patterns for flams

①

③

⑪

⑮

⑰

⑳

㉔

㉗

㉘

①

⑮

㉓

㉔

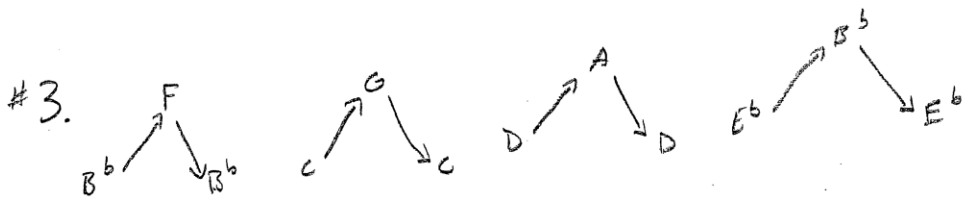
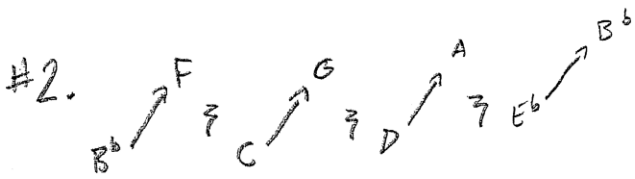
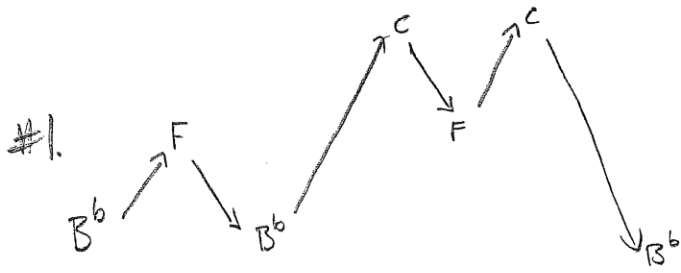
\*Right Hand Starts Every Exercise

1.

2.

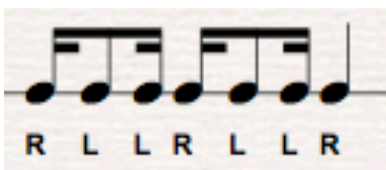
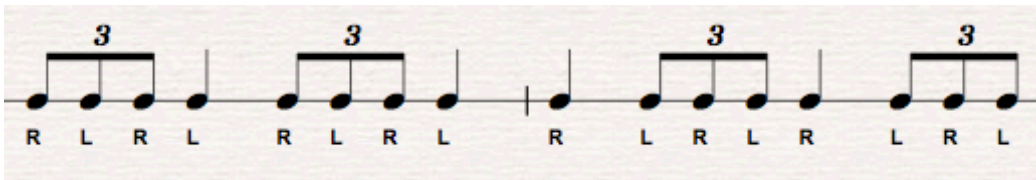
3.

Full Exercise:



Xylophone

Musical score for Xylophone, consisting of five staves. Each staff begins with a measure number in a box: 1, 4, 7, 11, and 15. The music is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B<sup>b</sup> and E<sup>b</sup>). The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and a double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.



Vic Firth Video Library for many different percussion instruments.

<http://vicfirth.com/percussion-101/>

Drum set basics:

<http://vicfirth.com/steve-houghton-beginner-drum-set-lesson-series/>

Drum set styles:

<http://vicfirth.com/tommy-igoe-groove-essentials/>

4 Mallet Marimba instruction:

<http://vicfirth.com/sequential-studies-for-4-mallet-marimba/>

Education Resource Library (browse on your own)

<http://vicfirth.com/education-resource-library/>

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