

DRUMLINE PACKET



GUIDELINES

TIMING

This is a drumline – timing is a very important aspect of what we do. Timing is important for our role within the musical ensemble and for maintaining the integrity of the rhythms we play. Remember: **Rudiments are rhythms too!** Know your rudiments and know them well. Be sure you are playing them **CORRECTLY** – meaning, pay attention to how certain sticking patterns affect your rhythm and coordination. Don't practice rudiments (or anything else for that matter) at tempos that are faster than your hands can play, or you'll end up practicing bad habits.

Also **PRACTICE WITH A METRONOME** – it will help you focus on good timing and accuracy. Remember: **Good timing starts from the ground up.** The feet are the most important asset to the success of a marching percussionist. Mark time with your feet as you practice and you'll find that it makes it much easier to march.

STICK HEIGHTS

As a drumline, we often have an overthink the definitions of what we do. These definitions are a part of your playing, but don't let definitions such as stick heights or stick angles drive everything you do. Below is a basic reference for stick heights as dictated by musical expressions.

- ① *pp* – 1 inch
- ① *p* – 3 inches
- ① *mp* – 6 inches
- ① *mf* – 9 inches
- ① *f* – 12 inches
- ① *ff* – 12 inches

REBOUND

In order to flow on a drum, it is necessary to harness the drum's energy. You "push" the drumhead with your stick/mallet, and the drumhead "pushes" back. Utilizing this energy will allow you to play faster, cleaner, and more relaxed. There is a misconception that "chops" are what make players fast; a false idea that players with chops hold the stick really tight and force all the motions out with their muscles. That couldn't be further from the truth. Players with "chops" know how to utilize the rebound, which lets them achieve more (faster) motion with less effort.

QUALITY OF SOUND

This is the phrase used to describe the process of producing a good sound on your instrument. Although tuning is a vital to this concept, the way in which the drum is being hit can directly influence the tone production of that drum. The tighter the grip, the smaller the sound, and vice versa. Certainly there are ways to go to an unhelpful extreme in either direction relating to a "tight" or "loose" grip, so a balance must be achieved. A good way to remember this idea is this: *Play to get as much sound as possible at any given dynamic.*

NOTE KEY

The diagram illustrates various drum and cymbal techniques across four staves: Snare, Tenors, Basses, and Cymbals. The notation is divided into two measures by a vertical line.

Snare:

- Regular Tap (dot)
- Rim Click (cross)
- Rimshot (cross with ^)
- Heavy Accent (dot with ^)
- Backstick (dot with +)
- Cross Stick (cross)

Tenors:

- 1st Drum (dot)
- 2nd Drum (dot)
- 3rd Drum (dot)
- 4th Drum (dot)
- Quint Drum (dot)
- Rimshot (cross)

Basses:

- 1st Drum (dot)
- 2nd Drum (dot)
- 3rd Drum (dot)
- 4th Drum (dot)
- 5th Drum (dot)
- Rim Click (cross)
- Unison (vertical line with 5 dots)
- Unison (alternative) (diagonal line)

Cymbals:

- Chick (cross)
- Slide (cross with curved line)
- Crash (dot)
- Choke (dot with V)

EIGHT ON A HAND

Snare Drum
Tenor
Bass
Cymbals
Marimba

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

5
S. D.
T. D.
B. D.
Cym.
Mar.

9
S. D.
T. D.
B. D.
Cym.
Mar.

5, 7, 9

Snare Drum

Tenor

Bass

Cymbals

Marimba

Measures 1-6. Snare Drum, Tenor, and Bass drums play eighth notes. Cymbals play a pattern of eighth notes with accents. Marimba plays eighth notes. A 5/8 to 7/8 time signature change occurs at measure 5.

7

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

Cym.

Mar.

Measures 7-10. Similar to the first system, but with a 9/8 time signature change at measure 7.

11

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

Cym.

Mar.

Measures 11-13. Snare, Tenor, and Bass drums play eighth notes. Cymbals play a pattern of eighth notes with accents. Marimba plays eighth notes. The piece ends with a double bar line at measure 13.

DOUBLE TRIPLE

Snare Drum
Tenor
Bass
Cymbals
Marimba

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score is for five instruments: Snare Drum, Tenor, Bass, Cymbals, and Marimba. The time signature is common time (C). The Snare Drum, Tenor, and Bass parts feature a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some notes marked with 'R' (Right) and 'L' (Left). The Cymbals part consists of a series of 'x' marks indicating cymbal hits. The Marimba part features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, also marked with 'R' and 'L'.

5
S. D.
T. D.
B. D.
Cym.
Mar.

Musical score for measures 5-8. The score is for five instruments: S. D. (Snare Drum), T. D. (Tenor), B. D. (Bass), Cym. (Cymbals), and Mar. (Marimba). The time signature is common time (C). The S. D., T. D., and B. D. parts feature a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some notes marked with 'L' and 'R'. The Cym. part consists of a series of 'x' marks indicating cymbal hits. The Mar. part features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, also marked with 'L' and 'R'.

9
S. D.
T. D.
B. D.
Cym.
Mar.

Musical score for measures 9-12. The score is for five instruments: S. D. (Snare Drum), T. D. (Tenor), B. D. (Bass), Cym. (Cymbals), and Mar. (Marimba). The time signature is common time (C). The S. D., T. D., and B. D. parts feature a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some notes marked with 'R' and 'L'. The Cym. part consists of a series of 'x' marks indicating cymbal hits. The Mar. part features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, also marked with 'R' and 'L'.

13

S. D. L R L

T. D. L R L

B. D.

Cym.

Mar. L R L

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a percussion ensemble, specifically for a drum set. It consists of five staves. The top staff is for the Snare Drum (S. D.), the second for the Tom-tom Drum (T. D.), the third for the Bass Drum (B. D.), the fourth for the Cymbal (Cym.), and the fifth for the Marching Snare (Mar.). The score is marked with the number 13 at the beginning. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'L' (Loud) and 'R' (Soft). The Cymbal part uses 'x' marks to indicate cymbal hits. The Marching Snare part uses a treble clef and includes dynamic markings 'L' and 'R'. The score concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note of each staff.

DOUBLE TRIPLE

Variation 1

Snare Drum

Tenor

Bass

Cymbals

Marimba

Measures 1-4. Snare Drum and Tenor parts include stick directions: R, L R, L, R L, R, L R L R.

5

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

Cym.

Mar.

Measures 5-8. S. D. and T. D. parts include stick directions: L, R L, R, L R, L, R L R L.

9

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

Cym.

Mar.

Measures 9-12. S. D. and T. D. parts include stick directions: R, L R, L, R, L R L R.

13

S. D. L R L R L R L R L R L

T. D. L R L R L R L R L R L

B. D.

Cym.

Mar. L R L

SINGLES

Musical score for Snare Drum, Tenor, Bass, and Cymbals in 2/4 time. The score consists of four measures. The Snare Drum part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with sixteenth-note runs in the third and fourth measures, each marked with a '6'. The Tenor part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with sixteenth-note runs in the third and fourth measures, each marked with a '6'. The Bass part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with sixteenth-note runs in the third and fourth measures, each marked with a '6'. The Cymbals part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with sixteenth-note runs in the third and fourth measures, each marked with a '6'.

Musical score for S. D., T. D., B. D., and Cym. in 2/4 time. The score consists of five measures. The S. D. part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with a '5' above the first measure and sixteenth-note runs in the fourth and fifth measures, each marked with a '6'. The T. D. part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with sixteenth-note runs in the fourth and fifth measures, each marked with a '6'. The B. D. part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with sixteenth-note runs in the fourth and fifth measures, each marked with a '6'. The Cym. part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with sixteenth-note runs in the fourth and fifth measures, each marked with a '6'.

SINGLES

Variation 1

Snare Drum

Tenor

Bass

Cymbals

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

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

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

x x x x x x x x

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

Cym.

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

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

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

x x x x x x x x

ROLLS

Snare Drum
Tenor
Bass
Cymbals

This system of music is for a drum set and is written in common time (C). It consists of four staves: Snare Drum, Tenor, Bass, and Cymbals. The Snare Drum part features a continuous eighth-note roll. The Tenor part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, often beamed in pairs. The Bass part plays a simple eighth-note pattern. The Cymbals part is marked with 'x' symbols, indicating cymbal crashes or accents on specific beats.

4
S. D.
T. D.
B. D.
Cym.

This system continues the drum set music from the first system, starting at measure 4. It features the same four staves: S. D. (Snare Drum), T. D. (Tenor), B. D. (Bass), and Cym. (Cymbals). The Snare Drum part continues with eighth-note rolls. The Tenor part continues with its eighth-note pattern. The Bass part continues with its eighth-note pattern. The Cymbals part continues with 'x' marks.

6
S. D.
T. D.
B. D.
Cym.

This system continues the drum set music, starting at measure 6. It features the same four staves: S. D. (Snare Drum), T. D. (Tenor), B. D. (Bass), and Cym. (Cymbals). The Snare Drum part continues with eighth-note rolls, including some notes with accents (>). The Tenor part continues with its eighth-note pattern, also including accents. The Bass part continues with its eighth-note pattern, including accents. The Cymbals part continues with 'x' marks. The system concludes with a double bar line.

ROLLS A/B

A

Musical score for Section A, measures 1-4. The score is for a drum set and includes four staves: Snare Drum, Tenor, Bass, and Cymbals. The time signature is common time (C). The Snare Drum part features a continuous eighth-note roll. The Tenor part features a continuous eighth-note roll. The Bass part features a simple quarter-note bass line. The Cymbals part features a simple quarter-note pattern.

Musical score for Section A, measures 5-8. The score is for a drum set and includes four staves: S. D., T. D., B. D., and Cym. The time signature is common time (C). The S. D. part features a continuous eighth-note roll. The T. D. part features a continuous eighth-note roll. The B. D. part features a simple quarter-note bass line. The Cym. part features a simple quarter-note pattern.

B

Musical score for Section B, measures 9-12. The score is for a drum set and includes four staves: S. D., T. D., B. D., and Cym. The time signature is common time (C). The S. D. part features a continuous eighth-note roll. The T. D. part features a continuous eighth-note roll. The B. D. part features a simple quarter-note bass line. The Cym. part features a simple quarter-note pattern.

Musical score for Section B, measures 13-16. The score is for a drum set and includes four staves: S. D., T. D., B. D., and Cym. The time signature is common time (C). The S. D. part features a continuous eighth-note roll. The T. D. part features a continuous eighth-note roll. The B. D. part features a simple quarter-note bass line. The Cym. part features a simple quarter-note pattern. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

ROLLS A/B

Variation 1

A

Musical score for Section A, measures 1-4. The score is in common time (C) and features four staves: Snare Drum, Tenor, Bass, and Cymbals. The Snare and Tenor parts play a continuous eighth-note roll. The Bass part plays a simple eighth-note pattern. The Cymbals part is marked with 'x' for cymbal hits.

Musical score for Section A, measures 5-8. The score continues with the same four staves as above. A measure rest of 5 is indicated at the beginning of the first staff. The rhythmic patterns for Snare, Tenor, and Bass remain consistent with the previous measures.

B

Musical score for Section B, measures 9-12. The score continues with the same four staves. A measure rest of 9 is indicated at the beginning of the first staff. The Snare and Tenor parts now feature accents (>) on their eighth-note rolls. The Bass and Cymbal parts continue with their respective patterns.

Musical score for Section B, measures 13-16. The score continues with the same four staves. A measure rest of 13 is indicated at the beginning of the first staff. The Snare and Tenor parts continue with their accented eighth-note rolls. The Bass part concludes with a final chord in the final measure. The Cymbals part remains consistent.

PARA-PRACTICE

Snare

Tenor

Bass

12/8

R R R

R L R R

3

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

R L R R L L

R L R R

L L L

5

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

L R L L

6

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

L R L L R R

L R L L

R

STAR ROLLS

Snare Drum

Tenor

Bass

Cymbals

4

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

Cym.

7

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

Cym.

BLUE DEVIL FLAMS

Musical score for Snare Drum, Tenor, and Bass. The score is written in 5/8 time and consists of three measures. The first measure is marked with a '4' above the staff. The second measure is marked with a '10' above the staff. The third measure is marked with a '16' above the staff. The Snare Drum part features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Tenor and Bass parts provide a steady accompaniment with eighth notes.

Musical score for S. D., T. D., and B. D. The score is written in 5/8 time and consists of three measures. The first measure is marked with a '4' above the staff. The second measure is marked with a '14' above the staff. The third measure is marked with a '14' above the staff. The S. D. part features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The T. D. and B. D. parts provide a steady accompaniment with eighth notes.