

The Five-stroke Roll

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The five stroke roll is one of the most commonly used 'roll' rudiments in music today. Being that it is a reasonably short roll to play, it gives the learning drummer a chance to develop their double stroke bounce without having to sustain the roll for long periods. This means that it can be learned and applied to your playing quickly and fairly easily.

The roll itself is played 'RRLLR' and alternatively 'LLRRL'. The count is usually 32nd notes and being that the roll covers a length of one 8th note in a measure, we can write a 'shorthand' version, which appears as an 8th note, double dashed (indicating 32nd notes) and tied. See example 1 below.

Often you will see the five stroke roll accented on the last note. For the following examples, focus more on where the roll sits in the measure and decide for yourself whether the accented note is needed

Good Luck!

Drum Set

RR LL R LL RR L

5

7

9

11

13

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17