

16ths Back & Forth Around The Kit

Exercises to develop creative movement
& orchestration around the drums

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Ex.1

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

Keeping quarter notes on the hi-hat with the foot, play alternating 16th notes beginning on the snare and moving to the floor tom. Reverse the motion in measure two, moving from the snare drum to the high rack tom. Notice the body position and rapid hand movements required to maintain parallel stick positioning while moving in both directions around the drums. Example 1 is a basic exercise that should be practiced regularly and mastered on the kit. Now lets examine how we can expand on this basic concept.

Ex.2

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

In example 2 we will use paradiddles in order to facilitate more fluid movement around the kit. Notice how the left and right hands lead when moving in their respective directions around the drums. In order to accomplish this, we are using the middle rack tom as a transition point by playing one group of 16th notes with alternate sticking. This allows the right hand to lead when moving to the floor tom and the left hand to lead when moving to the high rack tom. When practicing, alternate between examples 1 & 2.

Ex.3

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

In example 3 we will break our 16th notes into four groups of three played in order on each drum, followed by one group of four played as a paradiddle on the snare (to end the phrase). Notice how breaking the 16th notes into groups of three, and the natural triplet feel and alternate hand sticking that occurs with this, helps create a more fluid motion around the kit. Similar to example 1, the motions involved require extrenious body movement to ensure preparation for upcoming strokes.

Ex.4

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

In example 4, we will attempt to maximize the fluidity of example 3 by moving our group of four 16th notes to the middle rack tom. By utilizing a transition point (similar to example 2) we are once again able to allow the left and right hands to lead in their respective directions around the kit. When practicing, alternate between examples 3 & 4.