

Basic Rudiments and Percussion Techniques

Introduction

Percussion technique all starts with the rudiments; but it is also about left-hand right-hand independence. Work on your non-dominant hand. Do things like brushing your teeth left-handed (lefties, with your right.) Teach yourself to throw a ball and a Frisbee left-handed. Make an effort to use your left hand when you would normally use the right. In percussion the left hand should “sound” just like the right-hand. A good percussionist is ambidextrous.

Rudiments and other Basics

These are the topics we will discuss:

- Alternate right and left hand (except when you don't ;-)
- Counting the beat out loud – “one and two and three and four and”
- Use a metronome!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Keep it even
- Playing a basic single stroke roll – R L R L R L R L
- Playing a double stroke roll – R R L L R R L L
- Paradiddle – “down up tap tap down up tap tap” - R L R R L R L L
- Flams:
- A little about time signatures
- Approaching tunes using rudiments

Syncopation

- Missing beat syncopation
- Accenting a beat
- Applying this to your music
- Adding syncopation to a tune: “Off to California”

<http://www.oldmusicproject.com/Sheet-1601-1700/1628-OffToCalifornia1st.gif>

- Syncopation example from Wikipedia
 - Shifted by an [eighth note](#) (or quaver):

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syncopation>



Figure 1: Simplified Missing Beat Syncopation example Count it out! Beats to play in bold:

ONE AND two AND three AND four AND ONE (and two and thee and four and) ONE AND two...

Brush Technique

Prerequisite: Rub your belly and pat your head ;-)

Basic Pattern:

- Left hand: Circular Pattern: 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and ...
- Right Hand: Gentle down up stroke: 1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and...
- Mix up the right hand pattern keeping the left hand even:
 - Accent on the beats or on the off-beats...
- The key is right hand left hand independence; Then just play what you feel
- Listen to good drummers who use brushes

Percussive Art Society Rudiments – Examples

- Percussive Arts Society forty essential rudiments
http://www.pas.org/Libraries/PASIC_Archives/rudiment_1.sflb.ashx

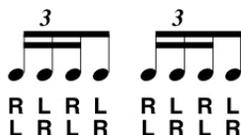
I. ROLL RUDIMENTS

A. SINGLE STROKE ROLL RUDIMENTS

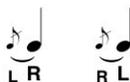
1. SINGLE STROKE ROLL *



2. SINGLE STROKE FOUR



20. FLAM *



21. FLAM ACCENT *



22. FLAM TAP *



II. DIDDLE RUDIMENTS

16. SINGLE PARADIDDLE *



17. DOUBLE PARADIDDLE *



18. TRIPLE PARADIDDLE



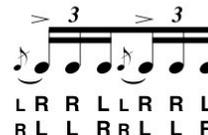
19. SINGLE PARADIDDLE-DIDDLE



27. PATAFLAFLA



28. SWISS ARMY TRIPLET



About The Author

Cliff Cole purchased his first hammered dulcimer in 1985, from Sam Rizzetta. At the time he was playing drums in a blues band. Prior to taking up the dulcimer, he studied drums and percussion for ten years. Since the age of fifteen Cliff has played in numerous rock, blues, jazz, zydeco and folk ensembles. Folk instruments are where the heart is; but he is a member of the Percussive Arts Society.

Cliff plays the hammered dulcimer in the family folk group “DayBreak,” which has been together since 1989. They have made several recordings, including “Lost Cave” which was recorded live inside of Lost River Caverns in Hellertown, PA, “Little Steps”, and “Autumn Calling,” which features many of Cliff’s original tunes. They also have produced two Christmas CD’s one named “Unity; Unique Music for Christmas” and a live Holiday concert recorded in December of 2002. Cliff also helped produced a wonderful CD with his daughter Emily Rose Cole, called “I Wanna Know” That was released in 2012.

DayBreak’s music is available on CD-Baby, iTunes and many other digital download stores found on the web.

Cliff is very active in the folk scene. He is on the board of Perkasio Patchwork Coffeehouse, where he often works the soundboard. He sometimes does sound at Godfrey Daniel’s a folk club in Bethlehem, PA. Cliff is also a founding member of the Quakertown Area Dulcimer and Autoharp Society (QUADAS.) He has been a workshop leader at many dulcimer festivals through the years.

James Jones made Cliff’s hammered dulcimer. The full sized 2/16/18/7 instrument covers four octaves and has dampening pedal. For more information about James Jones instruments go to his web site: <http://www.jamesjonesinstruments.com>

Cliff lives with his lovely wife, Pamela, in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. He works as a computer hardware test engineer for the Intel Corporation, in an office located in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

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