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SECTION I - BASIC STICKING POSSIBILITIES

General Considerations

For the purposes of this text, the basic Down-Up Technique that was presented in the book RHYTHM & METER PATTERNS will be expanded to include four stroke types.

FULL STROKE (F) — Starts and ends in a high position.

TAP STROKE (T) — Starts and ends in a low position.

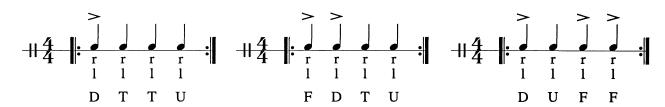
DOWN STROKE (D) — Starts in a high position and ends in a low position.

UP STROKE (U) —

Starts in a low position and ends in a high position.

5

The Full and Down strokes are used for playing accents, while the Up and Tap strokes are used for unaccented strokes.



Practice Procedures

When initially working on a given group of materials, all accented notes should be played from a high stick height, (75° - 90°), all unaccented notes from a low stick height, (15° - 30°). By using this type of exaggerated process, it will be easy to see and feel the various stroke types as they are used and this is exactly what we want to become familiar with, for it is through an understanding of these motions that one develops real control and facility.

After completing the above step, the exercises and studies should be reviewed at each of the six basic dynamic levels; (p, pp, mp, mf, f, and ff). When doing so, the differences in height between the accented and unaccented notes will be quite small.

As a general rule, all materials should be practiced first at a fairly slow tempo and later at faster tempo settings.

(Note — Studies containing specific tempo and/or dynamic indications can also initially be worked on using the above procedures.)

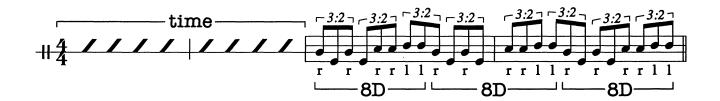
D. Use Of The Feet

The feet can be used with stickings in a variety of ways. For example:



In the example above, the foot was used to fill in between the stickings.

You can also have situations in which the foot is a part of the sticking.



Continue experimenting with these as well as other possibilities.

Additional Suggestions

All of the routines in this section have dealt with constant rhythms. As a means of gaining more variety, you should begin to experiment with ideas involving mixtures of various rhythms. Also, in many situations, it will be musically advantageous to leave some space in the playing in order to give the ideas that are sounded some room to breathe. Without question, these silences can be as active and as structurally important as those events that are sounded.