

Drum rudiment

In percussion music, a **rudiment** is one of the basic patterns used in **rudimental drumming**. These patterns of drum strokes can be combined in many ways to create music.

History

The origin of snare rudiments can be traced back to Swiss mercenaries armed with long polearms. The use of pikes in close formation required a great deal of coordination. The sound of the tabor was used to set the tempo and communicate commands with distinct drumming patterns. These drumming patterns became the basis of the snare drum rudiments.

The first written rudiment goes back to the year 1612 in Basel, Switzerland.^[1] The cradle of rudimental drumming is said to be France, where professional drummers became part of the King's honour guard in the 17th and 18th centuries. The craft was perfected during the reign of Napoleon I. Le Rigodon is one of the cornerstones of modern rudimental drumming.^[1]

There have been many attempts to formalize a standard list of snare drum rudiments. The National Association of Rudimental Drummers, an organization established to promote rudimental drumming, put forward a list of 13 essential rudiments, and later a second set of 13 to form the original 26. The Percussive Arts Society reorganized the first 26 and added another 14 to form the current 40 International Drum Rudiments. Currently, the International Association of Traditional Drummers is working to once again promote the original 26 rudiments.

Today there are four main Rudimental Drumming cultures: Swiss Basler Trommeln, Scottish Pipe Drumming, American Ancient Drumming, and American Modern Drumming.

Terminology

single stroke

A stroke performs a single percussive note. There are four basic single strokes.

double stroke

A double stroke consists of two single strokes played by the same hand (either RR or LL).

diddle

A diddle is a double stroke played at the current prevailing speed of the piece. For example, if a sixteenth-note passage is being played then any diddles in that passage would consist of sixteenth notes.

paradiddle

A paradiddle consists of two single strokes followed by a double stroke, i.e., RLRR or LRLL.^[2] When multiple paradiddles are played in succession, the first note always alternates between right and left. Paradiddles are often used to switch hands.^[3]

drag

A drag is a double stroke played at twice the speed of their context in which they are placed. For example, if a sixteenth-note passage is being played then any drags in that passage would consist of thirty-second notes. Drags can also be played as grace notes. When played as grace notes on timpani, the drag becomes three single (alternating) strokes (r1R or l1L).^[4]

flam

A flam consists of two single strokes played by alternating hands (RL or LR). The first stroke is a quieter grace note followed by a louder primary stroke on the opposite hand. The two notes are played almost simultaneously, and are intended to sound like a single, broader note.^[2] The temporal distance between the

grace note and the primary note can vary depending on the style and context of the piece being played.

roll




Drum rolls are various techniques employed to produce a sustained, continuous sound.

40 P.A.S. International Drum Rudiments



Roll rudiments

Single stroke rudiments

The single-stroke roll consists of alternating sticking (i.e., RLRL, etc.) of indeterminate speed and length.





No.	Name	Notation	Description
1.	Single Stroke Roll		Evenly-spaced notes played with alternating sticking. Though usually played fast, even half notes with alternating sticking would be considered a single stroke roll.
2.	Single Stroke Four		Four notes played with alternating sticking, usually as a triplet followed by an eighth note. (as in the picture) or as three grace notes before a downbeat (like a ruff).
3.	Single Stroke Seven		Seven notes played with alternating sticking, usually as sextuplet followed by a quarter note.


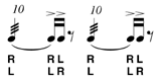




Multiple bounce roll rudiments

No.	Name	Notation	Description
4.	Multiple Bounce Roll		Alternating handed strokes with no specific number of bounces. Should sound even and continuous. Also called "buzz roll" or "press roll" (most often when referred to in the context of drum-set playing).
5.	Triple Stroke Roll		Alternating handed strokes with three specific strokes. Each stroke can be bounced or wristed. Also called a "French roll."





Double stroke open roll rudiments

There are 10 official variants of the double-stroke roll.^[2]

No.	Name	Notation	Description
6.	Double Stroke Open Roll (Long Roll)		Like the single-stroke roll, usually played fast, but even when played slowly, alternating diddles are considered a double stroke roll. Played so each individual note can be heard distinctly.
7.	Five Stroke Roll		Two diddles followed by an accented note.
8.	Six Stroke Roll		Unlike most other double stroke rudiments, the six stroke roll begins with an accented single note. Then it is followed by two diddles and another accented note.
9.	Seven Stroke Roll		Three diddles followed by an accented note. Usually a sextuplet followed by a quarter note.

10.	Nine Stroke Roll		Four diddles followed by an accented note.
11.	Ten Stroke Roll		Four diddles followed by two accented notes.
12.	Eleven Stroke Roll		Five diddles followed by an accented note.
13.	Thirteen Stroke Roll		Six diddles followed by an accented note.
14.	Fifteen Stroke Roll		Seven diddles followed by an accented note.
15.	Seventeen Stroke Roll		Eight diddles followed by an accented note.






Diddle rudiments

No.	Name	Notation	Description
16.	Single Paradiddle		Two alternating notes followed by a diddle.
17.	Double Paradiddle		Four alternating notes followed by a diddle.
18.	Triple Paradiddle		Six alternating notes followed by a diddle.
19.	Paradiddle-Diddle		Two alternating taps followed by two alternating diddles.

Flam rudiments

Four Flams (drums)

Four Flams drum cadence by the United States Navy Band

No.	Name	Notation	Description
20.	Flam		Two taps (a grace note followed by a full volume tap) played very close together in order to sound like one slightly longer note. In the Hudson Music DVD "Great Hands For a Lifetime", drummer and educator Tommy Igoe describes flams as "the easiest rudiment to play wrong" and goes on to say "...think of the syllable 'lam'. It's one syllable. 'Flam' is still only one syllable, but it's slightly longer." This is a good way for a beginner to conceptualize a "correct" flam.
21.	Flam Accent		Alternating groups of three notes of the form [Flam - tap - tap].
22.	Flam Tap		Alternating diddles with flams on the first note of each diddle.
23.	Flamacue		A group of four notes and an ending downbeat, where the first note and the down beat are flammed, and the second note is accented.
24.	Flam Paradiddle		A paradiddle with a flam on the first note. ^[2] Also known as a flamadiddle.

25.	Single Flammed Mill		An inverted paradiddle (RRLR, LLRL) with a flam on the first note of each diddle.
26.	Flam Paradiddle-diddle		Alternating paradiddle-diddles with flams on the first note of each.
27.	Pataflafla		A four-note pattern with flams on the first and last notes. ^[2]
28.	Swiss Army Triplet		A right hand flam followed by a right tap and a left tap, or (using a left hand lead) a left hand flam followed by a left tap and a right tap. ^{[2][5]} It is often used in the place of a flam accent, since repeated flam accents will have three taps on the same hand in a row, where repeated swiss army triplets only involve two taps on the same hand.
29.	Inverted Flam Tap		Alternating diddles (offset by one sixteenth note) with a flam on the second note of each diddle. Also known as a tap flam.
30.	Flam Drag		Alternating groups of three notes of the form [flam - drag - tap].

Drag rudiments

No.	Name	Notation	Description
31.	Drag (Half Drag or Ruff)		Two diddled grace notes before a tap, which is usually accented.
32.	Single Drag Tap (Single Drag)		A single drag tap is two alternating notes where the first note has drag grace notes and the second is accented.
33.	Double Drag Tap (Double Drag)		A double drag tap is a single drag tap with another grace note drag before it.
34.	Lesson 25 (Two and Three)		A lesson 25 is three alternating notes where the first note has drag grace notes and the third is accented.
35.	Single Dragadiddle		A single dragadiddle is a paradiddle where the first note is a drag.
36.	Drag Paradiddle #1		The first drag paradiddle is an accented note followed by a paradiddle with drag grace notes on the first note.
37.	Drag Paradiddle #2		The second drag paradiddle is two accented notes followed by a paradiddle, with drag grace notes on the second accented note and the first note of the paradiddle.
38.	Single Ratamacue		A single ratamacue consists of four notes where the first note has drag grace notes and the fourth is accented. ^[2]
39.	Double Ratamacue		A double ratamacue consists of a single ratamacue with a drag before it.
40.	Triple Ratamacue		A triple ratamacue consists of a single ratamacue with two drags before it.

Historical organization (Standard 26 American Drum Rudiments)

Thirteen "essential" rudiments

1. The Double Stroke Open Roll
2. The Five Stroke Roll
3. The Seven Stroke Roll
4. The Flam
5. The Flam Accent
6. The Flam Paradiddle
7. The Flamacue
8. The Drag (Half Drag or Ruff)
9. The Single Drag Tap
10. The Double Drag Tap
11. The Double Paradiddle
12. The Single Ratamacue
13. The Triple Ratamacue

Second thirteen rudiments

1. The Single Stroke Roll
2. The Nine Stroke Roll
3. The Ten Stroke Roll
4. The Eleven Stroke Roll
5. The Thirteen Stroke Roll
6. The Fifteen Stroke Roll
7. The Flam Tap
8. The Single Paradiddle
9. The Drag Paradiddle #1
10. The Drag Paradiddle #2
11. The Flam Paradiddle-diddle
12. The Lesson 25
13. The Double Ratamacue

Last fourteen rudiments

More recently, the Percussive Arts Society added 14 more rudiments to extend the list to the current 40 International Drum Rudiments. Note that the ordering was completely changed during this last re-organization, so these numbers won't match those above.

- The Single Stroke Four
 - The Single Stroke Seven
 - The Multiple Bounce Roll
 - The Triple Stroke Roll
 - The Six Stroke Roll
 - The Seventeen Stroke Roll
 - The Triple Paradiddle
 - The Single Paradiddle-Diddle
 - The Single Flammed Mill
 - The Pataflafla
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- The Swiss Army Triplet
- The Inverted Flam Tap
- The Flam Drag
- The Single Dragadiddle

Notable contributors

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- Marty Hurley: instructor and arranger, Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps during the 1970s and early '80s
- Paul Rennick: instructor and arranger, Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps: 2003-2010, Santa Clara Vanguard 2011
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Hybrid rudiments

Over the years, many other rudimental patterns have been informally identified and given creative names, although most of these are based upon the original 40. They are commonly known as "hybrid rudiments" or "hybrids," and are especially common in drumlines and drum corps. A few notable examples are the *Herta*, which is a drag played with alternating sticking, the *Cheese*, a diddle with a grace note, and the *Eggbeater*, a five-tuplet with the sticking "rrrll"; indeed, these hybrids have themselves given way to more innovative and arguably more difficult hybrids, "Cheese Invert" (an inverted flam tap with cheeses instead of flams) and the "Diddle-Egg-Five" (a paradiddle-diddle followed by an Eggbeater and two diddles, one on each hand). Hybrid rudiments are becoming increasingly important to a marching percussionist's rudimental vocabulary. Due to the differences in naming and origins of these numerous hybrid rudiments, a growing list of the most common can be found at the Hybrid Rudiment Library ^[6] ^[7]

References

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- [2] Percussive Arts Society. "Rudiments Online" (<http://www.pas.org/Learn/Rudiments/RudimentsOnline.aspx>). . Retrieved 15 March 2011.
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- [6] http://www.vicfirth.com/education/hybrid_rudiments.html#library
- [7] Vic Firth Presents the Hybrid Rudiments (http://www.vicfirth.com/education/hybrid_rudiments.html)

External links

- [DrumRudiments.com](http://www.drumrudiments.com) (<http://www.drumrudiments.com>)- All 40 Drum Rudiments with Video examples.
- [RudimentalDrumming.com](http://www.rudimentaldrumming.com) (<http://www.rudimentaldrumming.com>)

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