

Flam Five Break Down

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Snare 12/8

R r r r etc... R r L r etc...

R l r L r l etc... R l L l l l L l etc...

R l L l etc... R l r L r l etc...

Purpose: This exercise breaks down the left and right hands of the flam five rudiment. This is an excellent exercise for developing flam five quality and consistency.

Notes: This exercise should be very legato. Make sure that you use three distinct heights - one height for accents, one for eighth note flam grace notes, and a tap height for all other notes. The grace notes for the eighth note flams can be played at a true grace note height (1"). 16th note flams should be played with 3" grace notes.

Sound Quality: The main areas where mistakes are made is in accented diddle and the three taps (including the diddle) following the accent. A common tendency is to play the accented diddle with a harsh sound quality. Make sure you are playing the diddle with the same quality that you would use for a double stroke in Sanford double beat. The taps are basically a tap-height triple stroke with a diddle on the end. Make sure that the sound quality on all the taps is consistent. This is the job of the fingers on the right hand and the thumb and index finger of the left hand.

Rhythm and Timing:

The main issues here are going to be flam and diddle rhythmic consistency. Placing a very consistent space between the grace note and the main note of a flam is one of the greatest challenges in snare drumming. In addition, getting a consistent tap-height diddle at the end of the triple stroke can be challenging. So, when you play this exercise, really tune your ear in to the quality of your flams and diddles. It helps to play this exercise on a the hard side of a practice pad. The short duration of the sound will allow you to hear and identify any variation in your flam and diddle quality.