Paradiddle Pyramid

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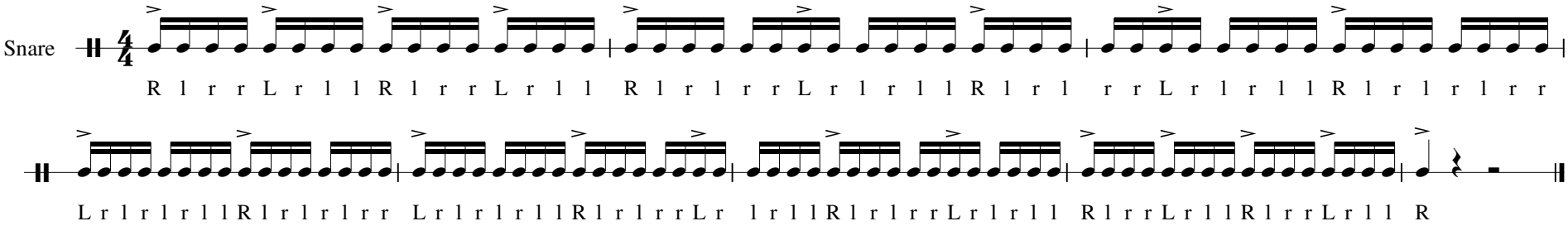

Purpose: This purpose of this exercise is to increase the quality of your single, double, and triple paradiddles

1) Stick motion: This exercise should have two very distinct heights. Make sure that every tap is exactly 3" (or whatever you define for your tap height) and that every accent is the same exact height. Another thing to watch out for oversqueezing of the stick from the accent to the tap. Make sure the stick motion is legato throughout, even when going from an accent to a tap.

2) Sound Quality: If you have practice the stick motion I described above, the sound quality should pretty much take care of itself. Again, don't squeeze the stick too much from the accent to the tap or you will get a 'poundy' quality of sound.

3) Rhythm and Timing: Getting the rhythm perfect in this exercise is one of the biggest challenges. There are many opportunities to make rhythmic errors, especially during transitions from alternating notes to diddles and back to alternating notes. Oh wait, that's the entire exercise! For me, the easiest way to check my rhythm is to play the entire exercise as taps. This requires a lot of stick control! Once I'm convinced my 16th notes are solid, I will add in the accents.

4) Variations to this exercise:

a) Play all at one height, especially tap height
b) Move the accent to the 2nd note of every paradiddle grouping (fun stuff).
c) Play exercise as an 'inverted pyramid', i.e. triple - double -single - double - triple.
d) All the above plus off the left!