

Building a Killer 6 Stroke Roll

© Wayne Katz 2008

The *six stroke roll* is by far my favourite rudiment. It starts and ends with an accent which makes it extremely versatile & drum kit friendly.

It is traditionally written with a *duplet* feel but ...

... I mostly use it with a *triplet feel*.

Musical notation for the 6 stroke roll in 4/4 time. The first bar shows a duplet feel with accents on the first and last strokes (R L L R R L). The second bar shows a triplet feel with accents on the first and last strokes (R L L R R L).

Start by repeating the following 2 bars. Be sure to follow the stickings & pay careful attention to the dynamics (accents and non accents) as it will result in a better sounding 6 stroke roll.

Ex 1.

Musical notation for Exercise 1 in 4/4 time. It consists of two bars of 6 stroke rolls. The first bar has accents on the first and last strokes of each triplet (R L L R L L R L L R L L). The second bar has accents on the first and last strokes of each triplet (R R L R R L R R L R R L).

It may help to move the accents to a tom, so you can associate a sound to the patterns. Try to keep the unaccented notes as quiet as possible, and the accents loud. Only move on to each of the following exercises until you're comfortable, That is the key

Ex 2.

Musical notation for Exercise 2 in 4/4 time. It consists of two bars of 6 stroke rolls. The first bar has accents on the first and last strokes of each triplet (R L L R L L R L L R L L). The second bar has accents on the first and last strokes of each triplet (R R L R R L R R L R R L).

... and finally, here it is. I usually play it as 16th note triplets, i.e. the roll lasts for 1 1/4 note.

Ex 3.

Musical notation for Exercise 3 in 2/4 time. It consists of two bars of 6 stroke rolls. The first bar has accents on the first and last strokes of each triplet (R L L R L L R L L R L L). The second bar has accents on the first and last strokes of each triplet (R R L R R L R R L R R L).

That's all there is to it. See the *Applying the 6 stroke roll* exercise on my website for some ideas using the 6 stroke roll...

KEY

Accented Snare

Unaccented Snare

Musical notation for the key exercise in 2/4 time. It shows an accented snare note followed by an unaccented snare note.