

Applying the 6 Stroke Roll - Pt.1

The 6 stroke is a great rudiment to use around the kit. I strongly suggest that you get the basic pattern down before you try the following exercises (see *Building a Killer Six Stroke Roll* on my website).

Start by using the 6 stroke roll on the last beat of a groove:

Ex 1. 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 trip let + trip let

Next, move the accents to the toms...

Ex 2. Ex 3

Or move the accents to the snare & the non accents to the hats and/or ride...

Ex 4. Ex 5.

Try some 2 or 4 beat combinations of the above orchestrations:

Ex 6. (Ex2 + Ex4) Ex 7. (Ex3 + Ex5)

Another option is to use the 6 stroke roll to spice up your hihat pattern without changing the kick / snare pattern. In the following examples, a basic groove is written followed by some 6 stroke trickery. Enjoy*

Ex 8.

Musical notation for Example 8. It consists of two measures on a single staff. The first measure contains a basic groove with a kick drum on the first beat, a snare on the second, and a hi-hat pattern of eighth notes. The second measure features a 6-stroke roll on the hi-hat, indicated by a bracket and the number '6' above it. The roll pattern is R L L R R L, with accents (>) above the first and last strokes. The kick and snare patterns remain the same as in the first measure.

Ex 9.

Musical notation for Example 9. It consists of two measures on a single staff. The first measure contains a basic groove with a kick drum on the first beat, a snare on the second, and a hi-hat pattern of eighth notes. The second measure features a 6-stroke roll on the hi-hat, indicated by a bracket and the number '6' above it. The roll pattern is R L L R R L, with accents (>) above the first and last strokes. The kick and snare patterns remain the same as in the first measure.

By now you should get the basic idea. Be creative and come up your own ideas. Check out Part 2 on the website for another interesting approach to the six stroke roll.

KEY

Key signature diagram for drum notation. It shows a single staff with a 6/4 time signature. Above the staff, labels identify the drum parts: Snare Drum, 1st Tom, Floor Tom, Bass Drum, Hi Hat, and Ride. The notation shows a quarter note on the Snare Drum line, a quarter note on the 1st Tom line, a quarter note on the Floor Tom line, a quarter note on the Bass Drum line, and two eighth notes on the Hi Hat and Ride lines, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a hi-hat or ride cymbal sound.