

INTRODUCTION

The rhythm section is the backbone of any orchestra, band or group. The drummer is the backbone of the rhythm section. The bass drum is the boss of the drums, rhythm section and orchestra. If the bass drum is weak and unsteady, you will find the rhythm section and orchestra unsteady. A solid, steady bass drum beat is the key to holding the rhythm section together - which in turn holds the orchestra together.

In recent years, some drummers have realized the important part the bass drum plays, and have worked and developed a great bass drum technique. However, most drummers still spend most of their practice time developing great technique with their hands and devote very little time to the most important item - BASS DRUM TECHNIQUE. Of course, we know the hands must be coordinated with the bass drum, but this will be hard to do if you have good hands and do not have a well controlled, steady, solid bass beat to coordinate them with. Remember, a drummer must play with authority and spark the band. The drummer that can do this best is one that has a solid bass beat to build everything else on. However, a solid, steady bass drum beat does not have to be a loud one.

Your job, above everything else, is to keep steady time. After the leader sets the tempo, it is your job to keep it. You are the stabilizer. You must keep the tempo constant - absolute. You must lead - never follow anyone. The bass drum is the boss of this job. You will find this job easier to do once you have developed better bass drum technique.

When you start working for speed, you will have to consider two very important items. The first one is evenness - evenness of time space between each beat and evenness of volume. The second is endurance. If you ignore evenness and endurance you will never develop speed.

Suggestions on how to practice the following rhythms and exercises.

1. Play the snare drum part soft but very steady.
2. Play the bass drum part a little louder and keep it steady.
3. Go slow at first. Increase the tempo as the foot gets stronger.
4. Play each rhythm at least four times before going to the next one; then go on to the next rhythm without stopping.

A snare drum "touch" can not be acquired on a practice pad nor can a bass drum "touch" be acquired by tapping your foot on the floor. Sooner or later you must practice on the drums. The sooner the better. Therefore, it would be advisable to practice the rhythms and exercises in this book on the drums.

1 C R L R L R L R L :

2 :

3 :

4 :

5 :

6 :

7 :

8 :

9 :

10 :

11 :

12 :

13 :

14 :

15 :

SOLO EXERCISE

The image displays a musical score for a solo exercise in 3/4 time, starting with a C-clef. The score is organized into eight systems, each consisting of two staves. The first system includes a C-clef and a sequence of fingerings: R L R L R L R L. The music is written in a single key signature and consists of a series of rhythmic patterns. The upper staff of each system contains a sequence of eighth-note chords, while the lower staff contains a sequence of eighth-note chords. The exercise concludes with a double bar line and a fermata symbol.