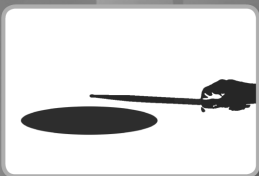
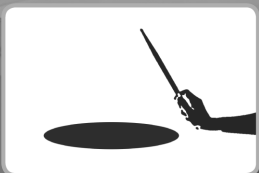


The Level System

A Natural Drum Technique Method for Developing Control of Accents and Dynamics

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Table of Contents


Introduction	4
Dedication	4
Technique	5
The Metronome	5
Notation Key	5
The Rebounding Stroke	6
The Rebounding Stroke—Traditional Grip	6
The Level System	7
Hand-Level Diagrams	7
Starting-Position Diagrams	7
Full Strokes	8
Full Strokes—Dynamics	9
Tap Strokes	10
Tap Strokes—Dynamics	11
Upstrokes	12
Downstrokes	13
Fine Tuning Dynamics	14
Changing Dynamics Quickly—Applying the Tap, Full and Upstroke	15
Changing Dynamics Quickly—Applying the Tap, Full and Downstroke	16
Changing Dynamics Gradually—The Crescendo	17
Changing Dynamics Gradually—The Decrescendo	18

Changing Dynamics—Hand Motions	19
Dynamics—Control and Endurance Exercises	20
Accents	22
Accents—Control and Endurance Exercises	24
Rudimental Motions	
Diddle Rudiments	27
Accent Variations	29
Flams	30
Alternating Flams—Flam Rudiments	31
Flam Rudiments—Control and Endurance Exercises	32
Drum Rolls—Open-Roll Applications	34
The Drag	37
Drag Rudiments	37
Flam Rudiments Revisited	38
Rolls Revisited	39
Drumset Applications	
Right-Hand Accents	41
Left-Hand Accents	44
Right- and Left-Hand Accents	47
Transcriptions	48
Fill and Solo Concepts	50
Recommended Study	52

Changing Dynamics Gradually

The Crescendo

The term *crescendo* means to increase in volume. The sticks must gradually elevate toward the full-stroke level. This will result in each hit being higher, and therefore louder, than the preceding stroke.

The *crescendo* can be abbreviated *cresc.* It is also notated by lines increasing in width (). Practice the following exercises slowly at first, watching the motion of your hands.

The following exercises do not repeat. They should start with both hands in the tap position.



For *piano*, remember to start with the hands down. Don't start the *crescendo* until the second measure.

In the next example, be careful not to achieve the louder dynamic too soon. Let each hit come back just slightly further than the previous one.