

On the previous page the term buzz was used in the discussion of how to play and count a roll. This term only applies if the roll to be played is closed. If the roll to be played is an open roll, then the buzz must be replaced by a double bounce, as follows:

At this point we will learn the terms nine-stroke, seventeenth-stroke, and so on. These terms refer to the number of actual strokes in an open roll, including the ending strokes. So if the roll is written:

the open roll, since it gets exactly two strokes per sixteenth notes, would sound as follows:

The total number of strokes is nine, so it is called a nine-stroke roll.

A good formula for this is to take the number of sixteenth notes within the note with the slash marks, and multiply it by two (the number of strokes per hand). Then add one (the note at the end of the tie), and you have the number of strokes in the roll. For example:

*(To the instructor—Some teachers who teach the open roll first use this method of counting with the beginning student. This can be confusing. It is this author's opinion that the number of strokes a roll is information the student should be aware of, but not in the beginning stages, and definitely not as the only way to count rolls.)*