

A Word About Snare Drum Rolls

Matched Grip

For the young student, the snare drum roll is probably the hardest technique to master. If a player has a problem with it, he or she is very “normal.”

The beginning student should start practicing this technique by getting the sticks to play multiple bounces (buzz strokes) instead of single strokes. This process should start slowly, one hand at a time. It is tricky, because the sticks should bounce as they hit the drum, but the fingers must remain on the sticks. Many students try to achieve a multiple bounce by taking their fingers off the stick—this will create the freedom needed to allow the stick to bounce, but will leave the player very little control. Hence, what is necessary is for the fingers to remain in contact, but when the stick hits the drum the fingers should relax enough to allow the stick to bounce. The fingers will then move with the stick as it bounces off the drum head. To help with this awkward process, the following exercises should be done:



WHIP—

The stick is held perpendicular to the drum head (with the top of the stick up). The thumbs should be facing upward, so that the fingernails face the player. The stick is then forced downward to the head by pulling the fingers into the palm of the hand, creating a whiplike motion. This will strengthen the finger muscles.