

Fulcrum Exercise

2008 Razorback Drumline Auditions

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The musical notation consists of three staves. The first staff is labeled 'SnareLine' and shows a sequence of rhythmic patterns: four groups of two 16th notes (r r), followed by four groups of three 16th notes (etc...). The second staff is labeled 'Snare' and starts at measure 5, showing four groups of three 16th notes. The third staff is labeled 'Snare' and starts at measure 9, showing four groups of three 16th notes, followed by a quarter rest. Dynamics markings 'f' and 'p' are placed above the notes in the first and second staves.

1) This exercise should be played with the following dynamic expressions:

- All up (forte)
- All down (piano)
- All 16th notes up and all sextuplets down
- All sextuplets up and all 16th notes down

2) Play from ♩ = 100-116

3) This exercise is meant to build maturity in your fulcrums. The open 16th note doubles will get the best sound when played with a relaxed wrist motion (two wrist movements per diddle). To achieve this, the fulcrum cannot be squeezing. Increasing pressure in your fulcrum stresses the muscles in the wrist which are necessary for this kind of movement. However, the sextuplets WILL need pressure from the fulcrum as they are too fast for the wrist to stroke out (meaning that the wrist only has time to move once per diddle rather than twice like the 16ths). This requires a quick flip of the lightswitch in terms of having your fulcrum engaged.

4) We are aiming to hear rhythms in time.

5) Make sure to avoid anticipating each shift in rhythm. There needs to be a clean transition from 16th notes to sextuplets (this is usually apparent in the infamous last left hands).