PERCUSSION

2024 Bass Drum Packet

Overall Approach

Here at Spectre Percussion, we approach drumming in a "Relaxed and Efficient" manner. The goal is utilize each muscle group (fingers, wrist, and arm) in what they do best. We also want to start and end every note with our wrist.

Fingers: where the grip is changed, used to support the tap sound **Wrist:** always engaged, the first muscle to initiate the stick the last one to move before the bead hits the head, controls height/dynamic changes **Arm:** supports top end of dynamics and any double bounce stroke

The last thing to think about is how we prep before playing a note. You always want to prep in time and in the subdivision of the rhythm you play. Keep all these things in mind as you work through the packet.

Presentation

STANDARD POSTURE

- Heels together, toes apart with both feet pointing at a 45 degree angle
- Legs straight
- Core engaged
- Chest slightly lifted, shoulders rolled back
- Chin lifted and turned 45° towards the direction of performance
- Eyes towards the direction of performance

HAND POSTURE

Bass will use a similar hand posture a matched snare drummer would use, with some minor differences.

- Grab the mallet about 1/3 of the way up from the butt of the stick with your thumb and index finger. You should not be able to see the stick protruding from the back of your hand.
- There should be no space where your stick enters your hand. Close this space by moving your thumb.
- Free of tension, the remaining fingers should then be wrapped around the stick with the thumb resting on the side of the stick, pointing at a 45-degree angle.
- Rotate the forearm as though turning a doorknob to arrive at correct bass drum hand position



SET POSITION

- Let your arm hang down completely relaxed from a standing position.
- Rotating at the elbow only, bring your forearm and hand upwards until the beater of the mallet rests in the center of the drum you are playing.
- Make sure to turn your thumbs slightly in toward the drum. This will help create a good tacet position, and will keep the mallet heads close to the drum head.



Playing

Bass Drums utilize the same heights and stroke types as Quads and Snare, but the technique is turned on its side and therefore needs additional clarification.

STROKE TYPES

- Legato Starts at a given height and rebounds to the same height. The velocity of the stick should allow it to rebound back out to starting height. Think about knocking on a door.
- **Staccato** Starts at the given accent height and stops at resting position. Do not squeeze the stick in order to stop it from rebounding away from the head. (Instead, keep your hands soft).
- **Tap** Starts close to the head and ends close to the head. Should feel the same as a legato stroke.
- **Upstroke** Starts close to the head and ends out away from the head. An upstroke happens when you play a tap but you have an accent immediately after.

HEIGHTS

Marching percussion dynamics generally follow a 3 inch height system. As the strokes increase in height, the mallet travels away from the drum head in more or less a straight line. See the chart below for bass drum specific height definitions.

рр	1"	mallet as close to the head as possible
р	3"	Vertical stick angle
mp	6"	Slightly out past vertical
mf	9"	45 degree stick angle
f	12"	Almost horizontal, adding <u>slight</u> <u>forearm</u> rotation .
ff	15"	Horizontal, more forearm
fff	18"+	Past horizontal, most forearm

Example of 15" height from a bass drum. Forearm has rotated out, making the stroke slightly different from a snare drum stroke from the same height. The mallet path from 12" onwards takes on an increasing amount of upwards swing, not just forwards swing.



In conclusion

Utilize this information to perform the exercise packet at a high level. Everything on the paper will be very literal. It's all about spot on rhythmic accuracy, height/dynamic control and technique. The more you play through this packet with a metronome, the more you will be prepared to be a performer in the Spectre Indoor Percussion Ensemble. Have fun!

Music Expectations

Here at Spectre Percussion we believe in communicating clear expectations to our members. Below are the expectations that we as a staff have for auditionees when it comes to the exercises in the packet.

Supplemental Exercises: Not required to be memorized but all exercises should be learned.

Etudes: All music in the etude portion should be memorized.

Show Excerpt: Memorized and able to play while marking time, this will be asked in the individual audition.

SUPPLEMENTAL EXERCISES

Bass Drums



Bass Drums

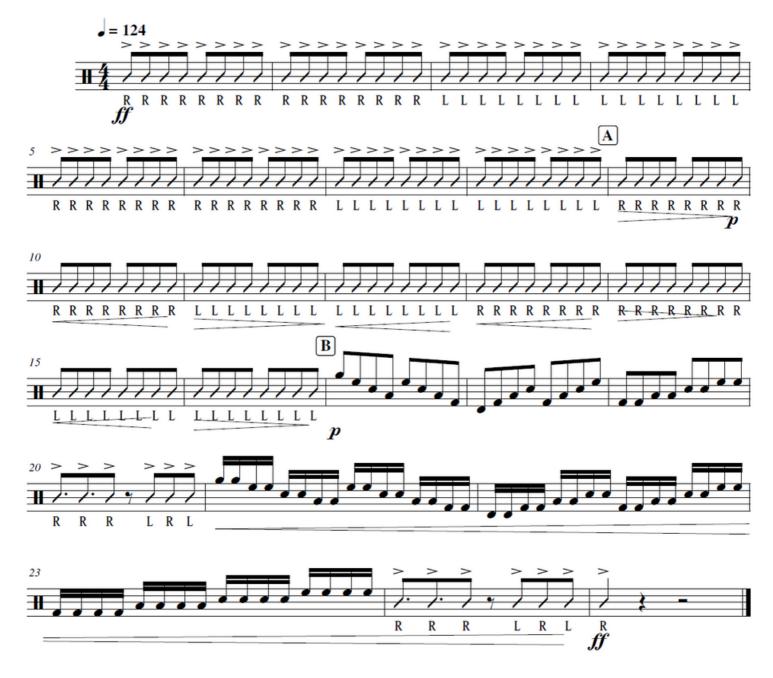


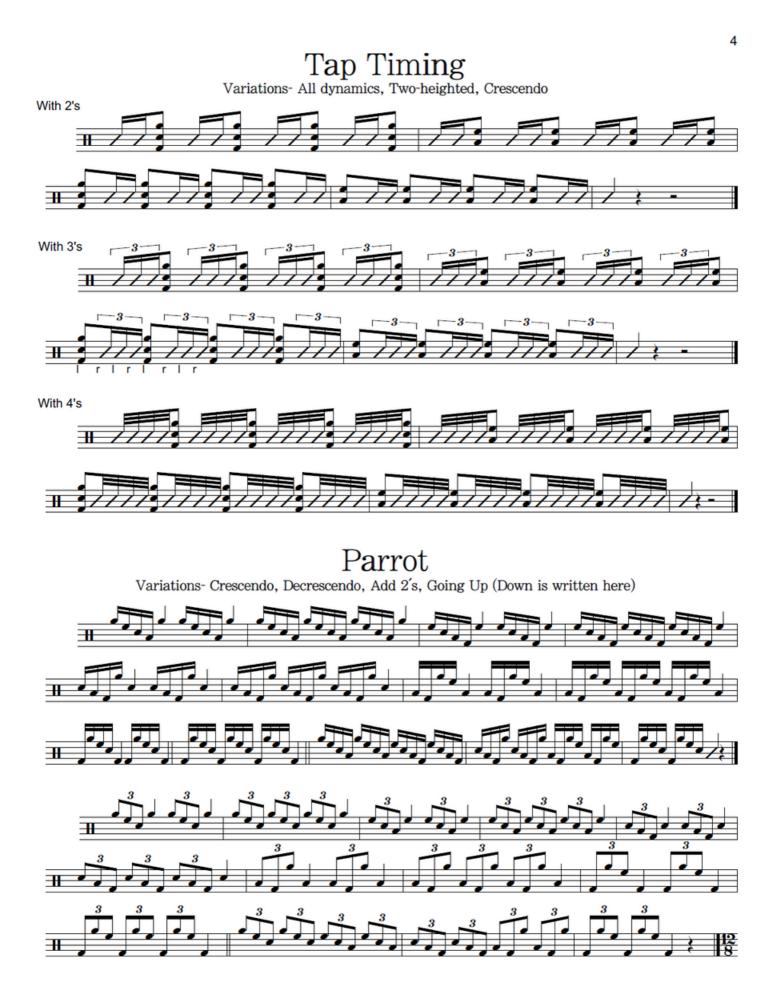


Bass Drums

Legatos

SPECTRE INDOOR PERCUSSION





Score

SSL Bass Variations





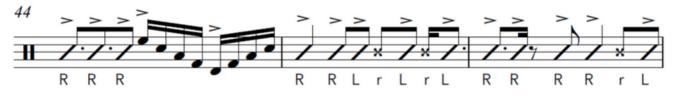
ETUDES

















FLAMCAKES

SPECTRE INDOOR PERCUSSION





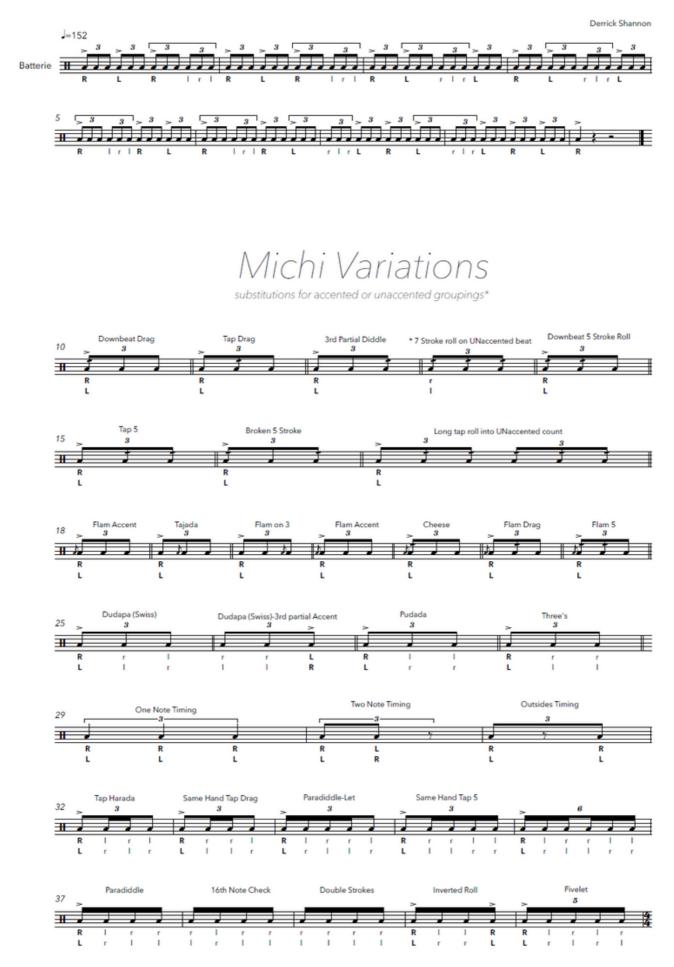
Michi Explanation

Michi's is a combination of 1 and 2 beat groupings that can be interchanged with a myriad of different rhythms and rudiments. On the next page, you'll see what we refer to as the "stock" version of the exercise. Learn that first and get used to the order of the different groupings. Below are a couple ways that may help you learn the pattern:

- 1. Learn the groupings like a song. Ex. 1-1-2-1-1-2-1-2 etc.
- 2. Every 2 measures, the beat that is unaccented moves one beat. So in the first two measures, beat 4 is the unaccented one, then in measures 3 and 4, beat 3 is the one that is unaccented. Continue this for the final 4 measures.

Please do not start doing different variations until you are confident in the "stock" version.

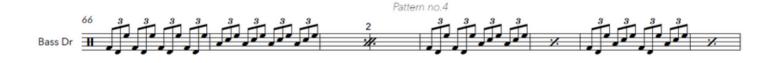
We will go over a bunch of different ones during auditions so the more comfortable you are with the stock version, the easier it'll be to learn the different variations. Michi's















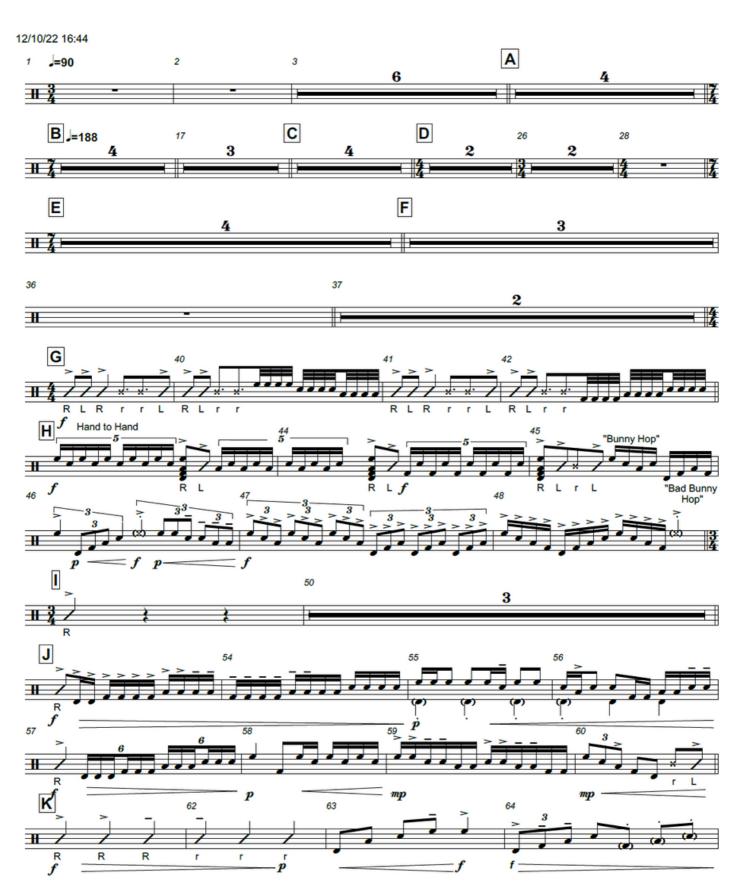
"All Skate'

SHOW EXCERPT: J-End

BassLine



Hernandez/Williams



ZERZURA • Part 1 - 12/10/22 16:44 • BassLine

