

# Bed o' Taps fo' Better Taps

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These two exercises are intended to bridge the gap between roll fundamentals and accent-tap fundamentals. It is very common that players who have painstakingly developed sufficient stroke velocity and fulcrum control for playing quality doublestroke rolls will nevertheless find those habits affected by the addition of accents to create two-height figures, like paradiddles and tap rolls. The demand for *not following the stick back to the accent height* tends to be difficult to integrate into an already extensive list of demands, creating a tendency to tense up in order to control the rebound of the accent. This added tension adversely affects doublestroke quality and timing.

This first exercise creates a groovy feel around inverted and straight roll figures in order to get you comfortable with leaning into a doublestroke that follows a relaxed *cushion stroke* (stroke that does not rebound to its attack height). Watch out for the paradiddle-diddles in measures 4 and 8, as these figures offer less time between the accent and the doublestroke on the same hand. The point is to execute a comfortable cushion stroke that rebounds to the tap height, leaving the accent hand optimally ready to execute a solid doublestroke at the low height. As tempo increases, it may become inescapable that the paradiddle-diddles feel differently from the inverted rolls, but at slower tempi, a discrepancy in your comfort level between the two kinds of R-rr figure (Rlrrllr vs. Rllrrll) could tell you something about how your accent-tap habits interact with your doublestroke habits. Listen to the solid “bed of taps” that the accents fit within; listen to how the accents might affect the timing or sound quality of the taps. Listening will point you towards the right corrections.

## Bed o' Taps I

♩ = 104 – 168

rr || rr L r r | | r r | | R | | rr || rr || rr || R | | r r | | r r L r r || rr ||

3 rr || rr L r r | | r r | | R | | rr || rr || rr || R | | r r | | rr || rr L r | | r r

5 || rr || R | | r r | | r r L r r || rr || rr || rr L r r | | r r | | R | | rr || rr

7 || rr || R | | r r | | r r L r r || rr || rr || rr L r | | r r || rr || R | | r r | | r

