Touch Doubles

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This is a basic doublestroke exercise with some variations that will draw your attention to the second note of each doublestroke and create some opportunities to really examine how your hands can work to create quality doubles.

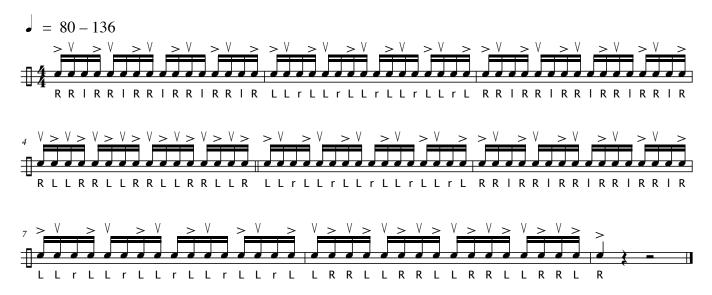
The idea here is to pre-empt common shortcomings in doublestroke quality by exploring the opposite extreme—making the second note of each double *bigger* than the first. This difference can be achieved through a height change and/or a change in velocity between the first and second notes.

Achieving the volume change through only a change in velocity (instead of a deliberate change in stick height) will be more applicable to the "correct" doublestroke approach (where you simply achieve two notes of equal volume, even if the relative proportion of forearm assistance, wrist turn, and fulcrum pressure are different). However, playing two closely spaced notes with deliberately different stick velocities is a challenge in its own right. Exploring this exercise by using *height* changes to effect volume changes is a great way to get your feet wet with the concept of attacking the second note of a doublestroke *differently* to achieve greater power in doublestroke figures.

Variation A. Play V accents higher (1) or just louder (2) than > accents.

Variation B. Play V accents lower/softer** than > accents.

Variation C. Play V accents at the same height (1) or just the same volume (2) as > accents.



** Note on Variation B: To attempt this exercise with a *softer* second note that somehow attacks from the *same height* as the first seems, to me, far afield of the purpose of this exercise. It may demonstrate a particular mastery of touch control, but it is not as relevant to the pursuit of quality doublestrokes. Therefore "lower/softer" is recommended as a single variation.



For more great ways to get better, check out **Quality Control for Rudimental Drummers**, available from www.fatmattdrums.com

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