



Timpani Rolls

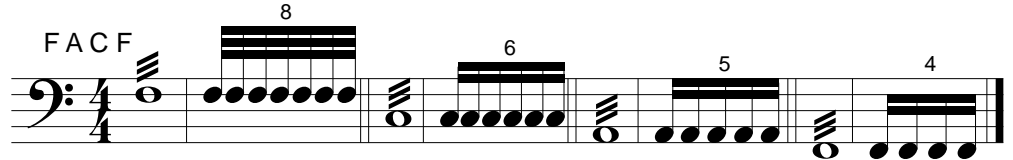
by J. R. Beck
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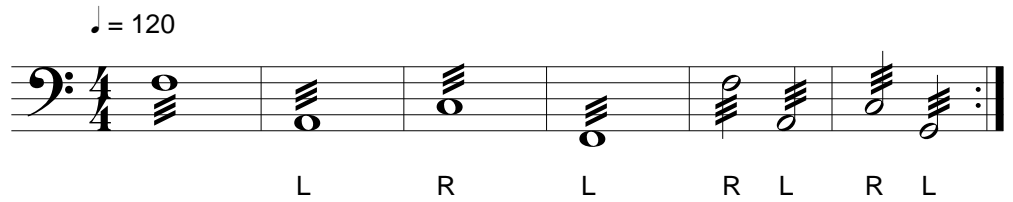
Roll Speeds for Different Pitches (Head Tensions)

The higher the note, the faster the roll. Use the “feel” of the mallet rebound and your ears to determine roll speed.



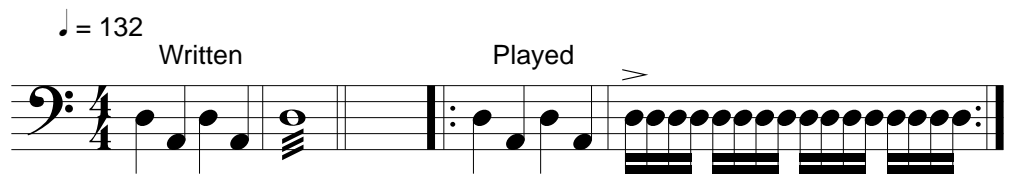
Sticking for Rolls

Lead down with the left hand and up with the right hand. Use an odd number of strokes (5, 7, 9) to “turn your hands around.”



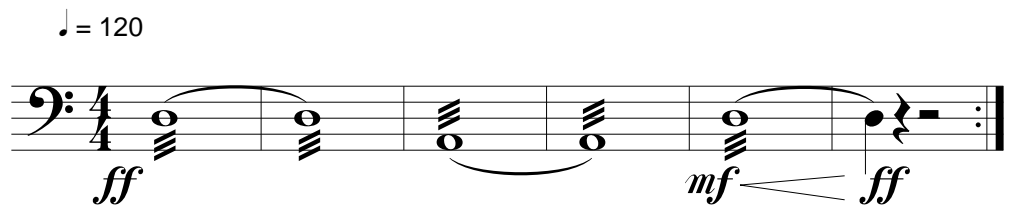
Measuring Long Timpani Rolls

Accent the first note and find the relaxed “roll speed” (often 16th notes). Slow and smooth rolls sound better than fast and forced.



Loud Rolls Without Edge

Lean over the drum putting the tension in your chest, not your wrists. Slower even rolls sound better than fast “machine gun” roll.





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Measured Rolls

Plan sticking and roll speed according to tempo.

♩ = 80

AD 8 16

R L R

Rolls at Very Fast Tempi

Articulate the first note of the roll and relax the rest.

♩ = 132+

AD 4 4

R R R L L L L

Measured Rolls in Fast Tempi Using “Odd-Numbered” Strokes

Use “5’s” where 4 is too slow and 6 is too fast.

♩ = 108+

AD 5 5 5 5

L R L R L R L

Rolls at Moderate Tempi

Articulate the first note of the roll and relax the rest.

♩ = 88+

AD 6 6

R R R L L L L

COURTESY OF PERCUSSIVE ARTS SOCIETY

701 NW FERRIS AVENUE • LAWTON, OK 73507-5442 • TEL: (580) 353-1455 • FAX: (580) 353-1456

E-MAIL: PERCARTS@PAS.ORG • WEB: WWW.PAS.ORG