

The Six Stroke Roll

Part 2: Evenly Spaced



In this lesson we're going to change the timing of the six stroke roll to play it as six evenly spaced notes. I find that this turns the roll into a more flowing and useable rudiment. The "standard" six stroke roll, from part 1, is made up of 16th & 32nd notes which creates a couple of "breaks" in the pattern. Here's a recap of that...

>
>
 R L L R R L
 "break" "break"

Ex.1

Instead we're now going to play the same sticking as six, evenly spaced, 16th note triplets.

> 6 >
 R L L R R L

Ex.2 (backing track available: "six-stroke-roll-pt2-90bpm")

Work on playing this new evenly spaced six stroke roll as a fill after a few bars of groove. Practice three bars of time followed by a one bar fill.

Groove... > 6 >> 6 >> 6 >> 6 >
 R L L R R L R L L R R L R L L R R L R L L R R L

Although I've written the fill for snare drum, you should feel free to voice the notes all around your drumset. Experiment, get creative!



Ex.3 (backing track available: "six-stroke-roll-pt2-115bpm")

For a more interesting sound, work on playing the six notes across groups of four 16th notes. In a bar of 4/4 we'll play our six stroke roll twice, creating twelve notes. Then we'll complete the bar by playing a short single stroke roll for the remaining four notes (R L R L).

R L L R R L R L L R R L R L R L

Again, voice the notes around your drumset, don't just play them on your snare as written.

Ex.4

Don't forget to also practice this evenly spaced six stroke roll left lead.

L R R L L R

Ex.5

To switch between the right and left lead stickings let's use a double paradiddle. Practice playing three right lead six stroke rolls followed by half a double paradiddle (R L R L R R). This will switch your sticking over so that you can repeat the process left lead. End with the left half of a double paradiddle (L R L R L L), and you'll wind up back where you started on a right.

In the following example the right accents are played on the low tom, the left accents on the high tom, and all ghost notes on the snare...

R L L R R L R L L R R L R L L R R L R L R L R R R

L R R L L R L R R L L R L R R L L R L R L R L L L