



# Drumming Basics

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With some basic knowledge and a little practice, playing drums is easier to understand and more fun!

## The Four Strokes of Drumming

Controlling stick heights is the key to playing dynamically and cleanly. And all that is really required is muscle memory training on four basic strokes, Full, Down, Tap and Up.

Think of drumming on a single surface and break down the dynamics you can perform to Loud and Quiet. There are two strokes for each dynamic.

### Loud Strokes

#### Full

The stick starts high, is thrown to hit the surface and raises or bounces back to the height where it started.

This prepares that stick for another loud stroke.

#### Down

The stick starts high, is thrown to hit surface and is caught low.

This prepares that stick for a quiet stroke.

### Quiet Strokes

#### Tap

The stick starts low, bounces off surface and returns to the original low position.

This prepares that stick for another quiet stroke.

#### Up

The stick starts low, bounces off surface and is raised to a higher position.

This prepares that stick for a loud stroke.

## Right Hand Lead

In the examples below, the right hand plays the first note of the measure and hands alternate within the subdivisions of the rhythms.



If any of the notes are removed in a single beat, use the sticking rules for the smallest note within a full count for the remaining notes.

