

16th Note Grid – Accent Tap Exercise

Purpose: There are a few reasons to include a legato stroke exercise in your routine. One reason is to focus on consistent accents and tap strokes. This exercise also gives the performer an opportunity to work on their Up Stroke and Down Stroke in a sixteenth note patterns.

Focus: Educators and Student need to make sure that they all know why they are playing this exercise and should focus on good consistent technique throughout each section in the drumline. We also need to focus on producing an equal and consistent sound quality, and consistent and matching heights throughout the whole ensemble. Perform proper Down Strokes, Up Strokes and consistent Free Strokes at accent and tap heights. Finally focus on your feet lining up properly with your hands.

Watch for this:

- Speeding up when playing accents. Keep a consistent tempo.
- Making the down stroke louder then the other accents. Keep a consistent sound quality.
- Don't whip single accents. Use a proper down stroke.
- Making the up stroke louder then the other taps. Keep a consistent sound quality.
- Bass drummers watching for when to play their splits. Have then count their parts and listen to the ensemble.
- Tap height bigger when play sixteenth notes. Keep all taps consistent.

PLAY WITH INTENT

Play every stroke on purpose and control
every stroke

Checklist

Look for the following as you are playing this exercise:

HANDS	STROKE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Snare and Quads thumb nails are facing each other.✓ Bases 90% bend in arm and 45% from the wrist.✓ Strong fulcrum.✓ Figures wrapped around stick.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Straight up and down off the head.✓ Pushing stick down using wrist and fingers. Let stick bounce back up to the starting position.✓ Make sure all sections are using the same stroke✓ Keep tacit hand in playing position✓ Proper Free Stroke and Down and Up Stroke
FEET AND HANDS	SOUND QUALITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Proper feet are lining up on proper counts.✓ Make sure everyone is using the same technique.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Each stroke produces the same sound✓ Blend each performers sound into the ensemble

Getting Started

All the ensembles I have taught no matter the level we always start just playing the groups of 4 accents, then add on groups of 2's and 1's when students are ready. Start with a nice slow tempo that all the students can achieve a good quality stroke that they can properly control.