

# Timpani Roll Exercises

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**Monkey (8-8-16):** Play with the written stickings and use a legato articulation. Builds smooth, even rolls.

**Roll Speed:** Every pitch has an "ideal" roll speed (fast enough to sound sustained, but not so fast that the sound is choked off). When metering rolls, notice that the same hand speed can be perceived as different subdivisions, depending on the tempo.

**Dynamics:** Practice rolls at different dynamic levels, as well as in the context of crescendos/decrescendos. Roll speed can be slightly faster for loud dynamics and slower for soft ones, but stay close to the "ideal" roll speed for your pitch so that it sounds as sustained as possible.

**Subdivisions:** During short rolls, it is helpful to be aware of the number of strokes that will fit inside the beat (according to the tempo). This will allow you to release the roll or change drums smoothly.

- Practice all subdivisions between 1-9 so that you are comfortable using any subdivision as necessary.
- Repeat individual measures before moving on, or play straight through as written.
- For extra practice, switch back and forth between adjacent measures.

2 **Metered Short Rolls:** Choose two roll subdivisions that sound the most "ideal" for your pitch, according to the tempo. One should be even, and one should be odd to help facilitate direction changes as necessary.



**Metered Continuous Rolls:** Choose two roll subdivisions that sound the most "ideal" for your pitch, according to the tempo. One should be even, and one should be odd to help facilitate direction changes as necessary.



**Roll Beginnings:** Play a slight accent at the beginning of rolls to give them a clear start.



**Roll Endings:** Play a slight accent at the end of rolls to give them a clear release (note that sometimes rolls will not be tied to their release, in which case a slight separation may be necessary).



**Roll Endings on a Different Drum:** Metering rolls is especially helpful for ending on a different drum, so you can prepare to move.



**fp Rolls:** Most fp rolls are written like the first measure, but are typically played like the second measure.



**Etude:** Perform rolls based on the rules and exercises above.

