

Invert Your Rudiments

The Power Of The Paradiddle

by Jim Riley

MUSIC KEY

open	○
H.H.	●
T.T.	●
S.D.	●
F.T.	●
B.D.	●
H.H. w/ foot	●

I'm a big believer in the practical application of rudiments. Rudiments are the building blocks of solid and creative drumming. Of course, every drummer I've come in contact with can play a paradiddle. But what about an inverted paradiddle?

There are three ways to invert a paradiddle. For this article, we're going to focus on one of those inversions. Example 1 shows an inverted paradiddle that has the double strokes in the middle. Take a moment to get the sticking under control.

1

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

Example 2 adds an accent at the beginning of each grouping. Remember to bring your stick up high for the accents, while keeping everything else low to the drum.

2

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

Now apply the rudiment to the drumset. Notice how the left-hand inner beats are played as ghost notes.

3

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

In the next example, play an additional accent on the "ah" of each beat. Now all of the singles are accented, while the doubles are played low.

4

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

Example 5 applies our new accented paradiddle to the kit. You can also create a two-bar pattern by combining Examples 3 and 5.

5

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

Example 6 uses the same accent pattern in a one-bar fill.

6

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

As with any pattern, the phrasing is created by the accents—the ones you play as well as the ones you *don't* play. By leaving out some accents, you can create cool-sounding patterns. Check out this one:

7

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

Here's how the previous pattern looks when played on the kit. (I love this groove!)

8

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

Example 9 features the previous groove, some variations, and a fill that uses the same sticking. It's hard to believe, but this entire pattern is nothing but inverted paradiddles!

9

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

If you have a drumset teacher, I encourage you to take this article to your next lesson. Try working on one or two figures per week. Remember: These lessons cannot be mastered without practice. But if you keep shedding them a little bit each day, you'll have them worked up in no time.



Jim Riley is the drummer and bandleader for Rascal Flatts, an active session drummer, a teacher, and a freelance producer. He can be reached through his Web site, www.jimrileymusic.com.