The following lesson is excerpted from

A FRESH APPROACH
to the Snare Drum

by MARK WESSELS

“A Fresh Approach to the Snare Drum” is the most comprehensive method available that simultaneously provides instruction for rhythm reading, technique fundamentals, rudimental training, coordination and musicianship necessary for today's well rounded percussionist! The accompaniment CDs make practicing FUN by utilizing percussion instruments and grooves from around the world!

Ask for “A Fresh Approach to the Snare Drum”
at your local music store, or order online at
mwpublications.com
### LESSON 1

#### Technique WORKOUT

Our first technique exercise is called **“8 on a hand”** and reinforces the proper REBOUND STROKES that you learned in the previous exercise, only this time with 8 strokes on the right, followed by 8 on the left.

Practice this exercise with the accompaniment MP3 tracks in the Lesson 1 folder on the DATA CD – or play along with a metronome set at 160, 180 and 200. As you work your way through the book, practicing with these tracks or with a metronome will help you to develop a steady TEMPO.

![Watch the videos for this lesson here:](www.youtube.com/user/FreshApproachBooks)

- R R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L

After working on rebound strokes in the "8 on a hand" exercise, you can add the "4-2-1" exercise notated in the TECHNIQUE WORKOUT section of the book on page 73.

#### Snare Drum RUDIMENT:

**Single Stroke Roll**

The snare drum **rudiments** are a collection of the fundamental skills and techniques necessary to becoming a successful percussionist. Mastering the rudiments will take many years of practice and practicing them EVERYDAY is important if you want to develop into a great drummer! Included with this book is a rudiment POSTER, which includes all 40 essential rudiments.

Our first rudiment is called the Single Stroke Roll— or ALTERNATING SINGLE STROKES. The goal on this rudiment is not to produce a “drum roll”, but rather to play perfect alternating rebound strokes. Over the course of the 20 lessons in this book, we’ll gradually increase the tempo until it begins to sound like a roll!

Practice this rudiment with the BRONZE LEVEL Single Stroke Roll rudiment playalong track, located in the "Rudiments" folder on the DATA CD.

- R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Also practice starting on the left. Starting with the “weak hand” increases your ability to make every stroke sound the same.

- L R L R L R L R L L R L L R L L R

#### Snare Drum RUDIMENT:

**Double Stroke Roll**

Again, we’ll learn this rudiment at a slow tempo, playing ALTERNATING DOUBLE STROKES. Work to ensure that every stroke sounds exactly the same, practicing along with the BRONZE LEVEL Double Stroke Roll playalong track. Only play up to the speed where you can stay relaxed and comfortable.

- R R L L R R L L R R L L R R L L

If you’re right-handed, leading with the left will strengthen your weaker hand.

- L L R R L L R R L L R R L L R R

On page 72 & 78, I’ve included **LESSON PROGRESS CHARTS** to help you track the tempos of the essential exercises and rudiments that you’ll learn as we progress through the book. Refer to this chart frequently as a guide for your weekly progress!
Before we start reading music, here are a few musical terms you need to memorize:

**Staff:**
```
\[ \begin{array}{cccc}
\hline
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\
\hline
5 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\
\hline
\end{array} \]
```

5 lines and 4 spaces

**Bar Lines:**
```
\[ \begin{array}{cccc}
\hline
\hline
\hline
\end{array} \]
```

Divides the staff into measures

**Measure:**
```
\begin{array}{cccc}
\hline
\hline
\hline
\hline
\hline
\end{array}
```

Space between two bar lines

**Double Bar:**
```
\[ \begin{array}{cccc}
\hline
\hline
\hline
\hline
\hline
\end{array} \]
```

Marks the end of a section

**Quarter Note & Rest:**
```
\[ \begin{array}{cccc}
\hline
\hline
\end{array} \]
```

Tells when to play or rest

**Time Signature:**
```
\[ \begin{array}{cccc}
\hline
\hline
\end{array} \]
```

Top number tells how many beats are in one measure
Bottom number tells what kind of note receives one beat

---

Start these sticking exercises with a metronome set on 120, playing each line separately for two minutes. Then try all 10 lines without stopping, repeating each line twice. After you can play all ten with consistent rebound strokes and no mistakes, move the metronome up to 140 and repeat the process. Once you reach 180, you’re ready to play along with the accompaniment MP3 track!

1. R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L
2. R R R R R R R L L L L L L L L
3. R R L L R R L L R R L L R R L L
4. R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
5. R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L
6. R L R R L L L R L R R L R L L
7. R L L R L R R L L L L R L L L R
8. R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L
9. L L L R L L L R L L L R L L L R
10. R L R L R R L L R R L L R R L L

**HOT TIP:**
If you have problems playing a line without mistakes, slow down! If you practice it correctly at a slow tempo, you’ll learn it much quicker than by making repeated mistakes.

Don’t miss out on the free videos for all the lessons in this book! [www.youtube.com/user/FreshApproachBooks](http://www.youtube.com/user/FreshApproachBooks)