

Paradiddle Freak-Out!

By Jeremy Brown

The paradiddle has endless benefits for drummers playing all styles of music and at all skill levels. Whether a top professional or a complete beginner, the paradiddle opens sticking possibilities that can give us new ideas and greater control of the drum set. I developed the Paradiddle Freak-Out! when I discovered a weakness in my own playing. While playing through Alan Dawson's "Rudimental Ritual," I noticed that my paradiddles can get a little out of control at the top of my tempo range, sounding sloppy. I decided my paradiddles needed some improvement.

The Paradiddle Freak-Out! is valuable on many levels. To the drummer who is new to practicing rudiments, the Paradiddle Freak-Out! provides the repetition that will make the basic paradiddle feel like second nature. To the experienced drummer whose paradiddles are in need of just a little improvement, this exercise will improve phrasing, control, and speed immensely. To the

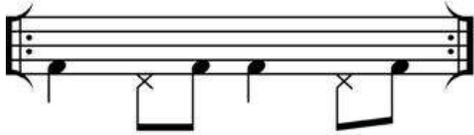
drummer who feels the need to practice rudiments but has become bored with the paradiddle, the Freak-Out! and its variations will impose new challenges that will lead to mastery.

With or without accents, the basic sticking of the Freak-Out! will allow you to focus on the basic sound, balance between hands, and rhythmic evenness.

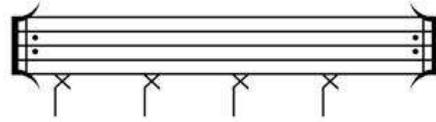
Spend plenty of time at a slow tempo for comfort, then gradually step it up to your maximum tempo. Here is the basic pattern:

Once you feel comfortable with the basic sticking, the triplet variation will present a real mental challenge. The three-over-four feel of this version is a good tool for metric modulation in addition to hand technique. Be sure to keep the quarter-note pulse in mind.

Develop coordination by playing all three levels of the Freak-Out! with an ostinato in the feet.



or



Once you're comfortable with the Freak-Out! as an exercise, you're ready to get creative with instrumentation, freaking out in a soloistic fashion. Here's one of my ideas to get you started:

The image displays ten staves of musical notation, each representing a different rhythmic variation for a drum set. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notation consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Above each staff, a sequence of 'R' and 'L' characters indicates the hand used for each stroke. Below each staff, 'x' marks are placed under specific notes, likely representing cymbal or tom hits. The variations are as follows:

- Staff 1: R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L R
- Staff 2: L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L R L
- Staff 3: R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R R L R L L R L R
- Staff 4: R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R L R R L R L L R L R L R L R L R
- Staff 5: L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R L
- Staff 6: R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R L R
- Staff 7: L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R L L R L R L
- Staff 8: L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L R L R R L R L L

When you have mastered these variations, use your imagination to come up with your own.