



2024

*Battery Percussion
Technique Guide*

Thank you for your interest in the 2024 Sunrisers Battery!

We are incredibly thankful you are interested in participating in our 2024 competitive season! This summer will provide you with an amazing educational experience and we can not wait to get started. The following document will cover three main areas that will be the foundations of our teachings.

- Technique & Approach
- Mental Expectations
- Governing Principles

These topics encapsulate our expectations should you continue to be a part of our 2024 ensemble. The percussion staff is determined to provide you with world-class musical performance and personal skills that you will be able to carry on not only in drum corps but in life as well. **Please take the time to read this document in its entirety, as doing so is the first step to a successful percussion ensemble!**

Technique & Approach

Below are the foundational concepts of our approach to the drum. These topics will be expanded upon as the season progresses, and key concepts are outlined below.

Using Your Arm, Wrist, and Fingers

Because a musical passage contains dynamic shaping, you can utilize your whole arm to explore this musical phrasing. A perfect combination of finger contact, wrist rotation, and eventually arm involvement will lead you to develop a warm sound on a set of drums and avoid harsh tones.

Knowing when to utilize proper wrist rotation and when to incorporate your arm is crucial to our approach!

Fulcrum

The fulcrum is ideally where your hand first initiates a stable point of contact with your drumstick. Here, we will generally utilize a **middle finger fulcrum**. Ideally, there should be as minimal pressure in your hand as possible - strive to maintain a grip of constant five-finger contact without pressure.

Dynamics vs. Heights

Dynamics are essential to give life to the musical product we aim to create throughout the season. Understanding dynamics in the context of a full corps ensemble (i.e. knowing when to play a supportive role vs. knowing when it is your time to shine) completes the emotional effect of a musical piece.

The dynamics written on the page dictate what height to strive for, not the other way around. We will constantly refer back to our dynamics when piecing together our show.

(Heights of course will be referenced, however they are not the governing authority)

Stroke Types

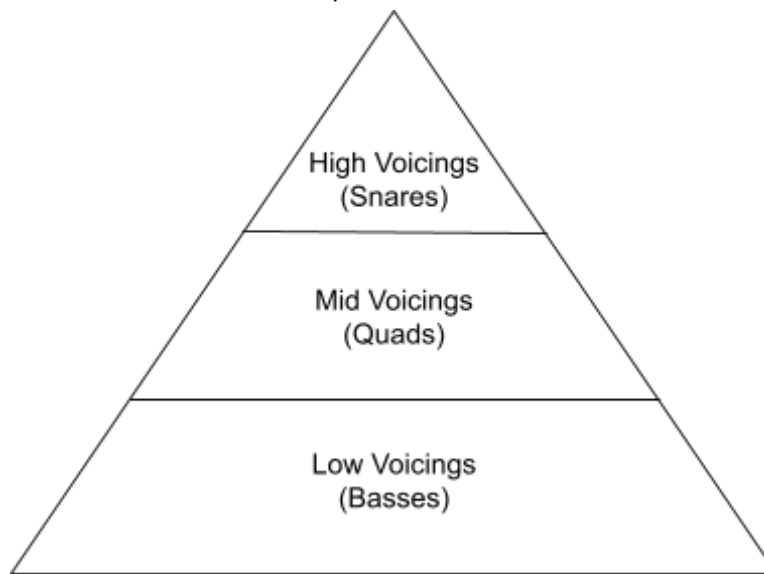
All of the music you will receive will consist of four foundational stroke types that are essential to visual and musical success.

1. Full stroke: Letting the stick use the natural rebound of the drum to return to the starting height.
2. Down stroke: Stopping the stick at a “destination height” (typically 3”). The stick will stop lower than where it started.
3. Tap: Starting from a low height, simply place the note utilizing proper wrist rotation.
4. Up stroke: Starting from a low height, bring the stick up to a higher “destination height”.

These stroke types will be referenced constantly and you will see them appear in exercises and show music!

Balance and Blend

Perhaps the most important ensemble-wide skill, the ability to balance within a full-corps ensemble is crucial to providing the full emotional effect of a production.



This pyramid of sound will be constantly referenced. In the most ideal environments, sections should listen tonally and listen back. Members should also be sure to hear themselves and the people around them (trios, sections) to ensure musical success.

Everything outlined above governs our style of teaching and how we approach battery percussion. Please try and apply these concepts in your individual practice with the exercises attached to this packet!

Mental Expectations

Drum corps is a rigorous physical activity; however, the mental aspect can not be ignored! This section will cover our approach to staying mentally tough and tips to succeed mentally in this activity.

Staying Present

Do your best to stay 100% engaged all of the time! The second your mind begins to wander during a musical phrase, you are ignoring responsibilities to blend, balance, visual participation, etc. Finding your own individual ways to stay locked in (ideally 100% of the time) will pave the way to a mentally resilient ensemble.

Staying Smart & Malleable

Intelligence is the name of the game. Remaining constantly aware of your surroundings on the field and adapting as situations change is crucial in this activity. **If you can adapt, you will overcome!** Being able to mold yourself to a situation will make your life easier and exude a proper display of confidence in almost every scenario.

Staying smart applies to exercises as well. We have outlined a number of exercises that will be directly applied to show music, however, we encourage you to throw your own spin on every exercise in your individual practice time. Keeping yourself on your toes will not only keep your chops up but fortify your mental toughness. **Get comfortable being uncomfortable!**

Governing Principles

This percussion section is not just a group of musicians, we are a team. We are a community that will help each other and strive for greatness **as a team**. Below are some principles that we will uphold you and ourselves to.

SELFLESSNESS

By being a part of this ensemble, you all should strive to help each other in every way possible. Selflessness can manifest musically, choosing to blend with the ensemble and not pop out of the sound. Aside from the musical aspect, help out your fellow members and steer away from selfish decisions. **WE over ME.**

PERSEVERANCE

Persevering through challenges and hardship is crucial to the success of the ensemble. There will be rigorous rehearsal days with unpredictable weather or external factors. Remaining mentally tough during these hardships will give you indomitable determination that is applicable to every aspect of your life, even outside of drum corps.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Holding yourself accountable is crucial for building trust within the community. Being honest with yourself paves the path to success and encourages others around you to do the same. This also includes letting your staff and fellow members know when you are going to be absent; please communicate any conflicts! This fosters trust and understanding within our culture.

Holding those around you accountable will also foster an incredibly strong sense of trust. It is a two-way street, and when you trust that those around you are just as committed as you are, that trust facilitates a brotherhood that is indestructible.

In conclusion...

We thank you for taking the time to read through our technique and mental approach! Understanding every concept outlined above and applying it in your individual practice time and throughout our 2024 season is essential to the success of the battery, percussion ensemble, and the entire drum corps.

Please use the above as merely a concrete foundation. Nearly every concept that has been talked about here will be expanded upon and elaborated further as the season progresses. Your dedication to applying our approach and abiding by our principles is a driving factor in your experience here at the Sunrisers.

Once again, thank you for considering the Sunrisers Drum and Bugle Corps!

- *Sunrisers Percussion Staff & Administration*

2024 Sunrisers Battery Video Audition

If you wish to submit a **video audition**, please follow the guidelines below. **Submitting a video audition will not negatively impact our assessment of your skillset.**

- Film all videos in landscape mode (horizontal). Have your whole body (feet included for marking time) and drum in frame.
- The exercises are formatted with the following example:
 - 8s
 - 2x @ 120 BPM, FF

This means to play **8s** in its entirety **two times at 120 BPM** with a FF dynamic.

- An audible metronome is required for each and every exercise. Between each rep of an exercise, please allow **8 beats in between**.
- Mark time for all exercises.
- Each individual exercise may be its own video. You may upload each exercise as an **unlisted** YouTube video, or to a Google Drive folder. Each video must be titled with the name of the exercise.
- Please submit a link to the videos to isaiahh.wilsonn@gmail.com and teeleharrison@gmail.com, with the following subject line: "2024 Sunrisers - [YOUR NAME] Video Audition"

Required Exercises:

- **8s**
 - 1x @ 128 BPM, FF; 1x @ 160 BPM, mp
- **16s Down-Up variation**
 - 2x @ 132 BPM, FF/mp
- **Double Beat**
 - 2x @ 114 BPM, FF
- **Flam Breakdowns**
 - 2x @ 70 BPM, FF/mp
- **Gallop**
 - 1x @ 144 BPM, FF; 1x @ 164 BPM, mp
- **Triplets SSL**
 - 1x buzzes @ 148 BPM, mf; 1x diddles @ 148 BPM, mf
- **OPTIONAL: One etude of up to 1 MINUTE in length**
 - Examples include a snippet of your high school show music or a self-composed piece

Sunrisers Battery Packet

Primers

Legatos

8s

Musical staff for Legatos 8s. The staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns. The first measure is marked with 'R' above and 'L' below. The second measure is marked with 'L' above and 'R' below. The third measure is marked with 'R' above and 'L' below. The fourth measure is marked with 'R' above and 'L' below.

16s

Musical staff for Legatos 16s. The staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns. The first measure is marked with 'R' below. The second measure is marked with 'L' below. The third measure is marked with 'R' below. The fourth measure is marked with 'L' below.

Double Stops

Musical staff for Double Stops. The staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns. The first measure is marked with 'B ...' below.

Bucs

Musical staff for Bucs. The staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns with accents (>) above each note. The first measure is marked with 'R r' above and 'L l' below. The second measure is marked with 'L' above and 'R' below. The third measure is marked with 'R' above and 'L' below. The fourth measure is marked with 'R' above and 'L' below.

Double Beat

Musical staff for Double Beat. The staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns. The first measure is marked with 'R' above and 'L' below. The second measure is marked with 'L' above and 'R' below. The third measure is marked with 'R' above and 'L' below. The fourth measure is marked with 'R' above and 'L' below.

Flams

Flam Accent Breakdown

Musical staff for Flam Accent Breakdown. The staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns with accents (>) above each note. The first measure is marked with 'R r r r R r r r ...' below. The second measure is marked with 'R/l r r r R/l r r r ...' below.

Musical staff for Flam Accent Breakdown. The staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns with accents (>) above each note. The first measure is marked with 'R/l r L/r r' below. The second measure is marked with 'R/l r L/r r' below. The third measure is marked with 'R/l r L/r r' below. The fourth measure is marked with 'R/l r L/r r' below.

Musical staff for Flam Accent Breakdown. The staff contains four measures of eighth-note patterns with accents (>) above each note. The first measure is marked with 'R/l l r L/r r l' below. The second measure is marked with 'R/l l r L/r r l' below. The third measure is marked with 'R/l l r L/r r l' below. The fourth measure is marked with 'R/l l r L/r r l' below.

2

Flam Tap Breakdown

25



R r r R r r ... R/l r r R/l r r ...

27



R/l r L/r R/l r L/r ... R/l r L/r l ...

Timing

Duple One Note Timing

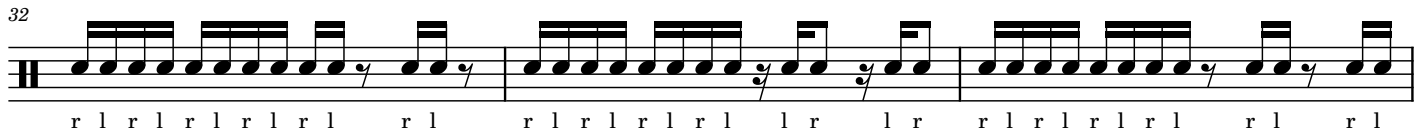
29



r l r l r l r l r r r r r l r l r l r l l l l l r l r l r r r l r l l l

Duple Two Note Timing

32



r l r l

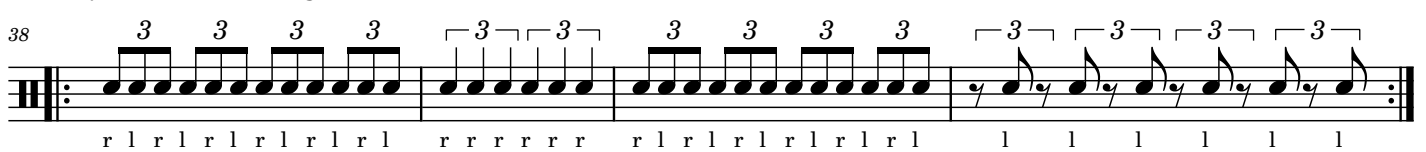
35



r l r l

Triplet One Note Timing

38



r l r l

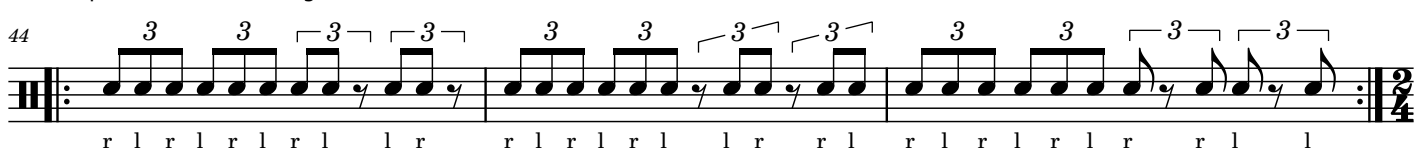
42



r l r l r l r l r r r r r l r l r l r l l l l l

Triplet Two Note Timing

44



r l r l r l r l l r r l r l r l l r r l r l r l r l r l r l r l r l l

47



r l r l r l r l r l r r l r l r l r l r l r l r l r l l

Rolls

SSL Duple

50

r l r l rr ll rr ll r l r l ... rr ll..

Gallop

53

r r l r r l ... r l l r l l ... r r l. r l l. r r l. r l l.

57

r r l r l l.

59

r r l l ...

SSL Triplet Buzz

61

r l r l r l ...

SSL Triplet Diddle

64

r l r l r l rr ll ...

Check Patterns

Check Pattern : Stock

67

Check 1 Check 2 Check 3

71

Check 4 Check 5 Check 6 Check 7

75

Check 8 Check 9 Check 10

78

Check 11 Check 12 Check 13 Check 14

4 Triplet Check: Stock

Trip. Check 1

Trip. Check 2

Trip. Check 3

82

Trip. Check 4

Trip. Check 5

Trip. Check 6

86