

# Paradiddle Accents on Drumset

By Mike Spinrad

My teacher, Greg Sudmeier, taught me the following exercise about 25 years ago.

A > > B > >  
 C > > D > >  
 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

Drummers and percussionists need to be able to switch the accent of the paradiddle at will. Practice the exercises above in this order: A-A, B-B, C-C, D-D and every permutation that mixes the order, including:

- A-A, C-C, D-D, B-B
- A-A, D-D, C-C, B-B
- A-A, B-B, D-D, C-C
- B-B, A-A, C-C, D-D
- B-B, A-A, D-D, C-C, etc.

Now that you are familiar with the idea of varying the placement of the accents, let's look at some of the drumset applications to Variation C. You will need a setup that includes a ride and crash cymbal on both sides of the drumset.

Crash Hi-hat Ride Tom SD Tom BD

1  
 R L R R L R L L

Now let the left hand stay over the rack tom.

2  
 R L R R L R L L

The next two exercises are hybrids of 1 and 2.

3  
 R L R R L R L L

4  
 R L R R L R L L

Now add some flavor by hitting the hi-hat slightly open (placed traditionally on the left side).

5  
 R L R R L R L L

Leave the left hand on the hi-hat and move the right hand around the drumset. Notice that the accent also changes placement.

6  
 R L R R L R L L

7  
 R L R R L R L L

Exercise 8 uses a ride and crash cymbal, both placed on the right.

8  
 R L R R L R L L

You are only limited by your imagination. Starting the right hand on the floor tom yields a very interesting pattern.

9

R L R R L R L L

10

R L R R L R L L

After you have mastered the above, try using similar ideas for variations A, B, and D.

**Mike Spinrad** records and performs with San Francisco Bay Area jazz, R&B, and pop groups. Listen to Spinrad's original jazz compositions at [www.cdbaby.com/cd/mikespinrad](http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/mikespinrad). PN

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