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Hey there – and thanks for checking out this guide to my 20 Essential Drum Rudiments!

My name is Simon and, as you probably guessed, I'm a drummer. My nickname is Slammin' Simon and I've got a super cool pet turtle named Rudi. We love showing drummers just like you all kinds of cool rhythms and techniques.



Rudi's name is short for the word "rudiment."
Rudiments are basic drum hand patterns (or "stickings") that every drummer should learn . . . and rudiments are exactly what this book is all about!

There is an awesome group of drummers called the Percussive Arts Society (or the PAS), and they put together a list of the most important drum rudiments to learn. The PAS calls their list the 40 International Drum Rudiments. You're going to learn half of those in this guide, a list that Rudi and I call the 20 Essential Drum Rudiments.

These rudiments are divided into four sections:

Roll Rudiments

Diddle Rudiments

Flam Rudiments

Drag Rudiments

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Rolls? Diddles? Flams? Drags?

Those might just seem like silly made-up words but they are actually very cool patterns that sound great once you know how to play them! The rudiments will have us combining our right and left hands in all sorts of ways, creating some awesome patterns that we can play on any kind of drum or percussion instrument that we'd like.

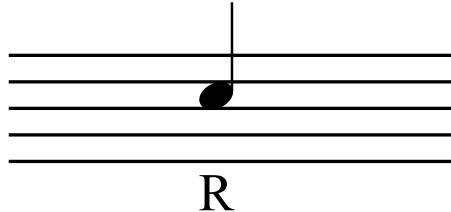
Ready to jump in?

So are we! Grab your drumsticks, get settled in at your practice pad or snare drum, and let's get started.

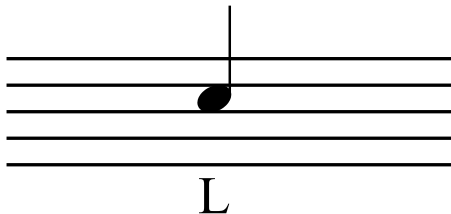
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When reading the music in this book, you'll often see the letters R and L written below some of our music notes. The letter tells you which drumstick should play the note that's above it.

R = play a note with the stick in your RIGHT hand



L = play a note with the stick in your LEFT hand



Easy enough, right?