2020 NHBDA Honors Band

Snare Percussion Technique Tips & Tricks

Open-closed-open technique consists of beginning any rudiment at a slow, controlled tempo and gradually increasing tempo evenly until a maximum speed for the drummer is reached. The maximum tempo must reflect the fundamental stroke and nuance of the rudiment as it would when performed at a slow tempo. After maintaining the apex tempo musically and accurately for at least two seconds, the performer must then decrease tempo, maintaining control through the entirety of the performance. Optimally, the drummer should end on the opposite hand as started, as is the case of alternating rudiments such as paradiddles or flam taps. Lastly, the ending tempo should be approximately the same speed as the initial tempo.