Pantera

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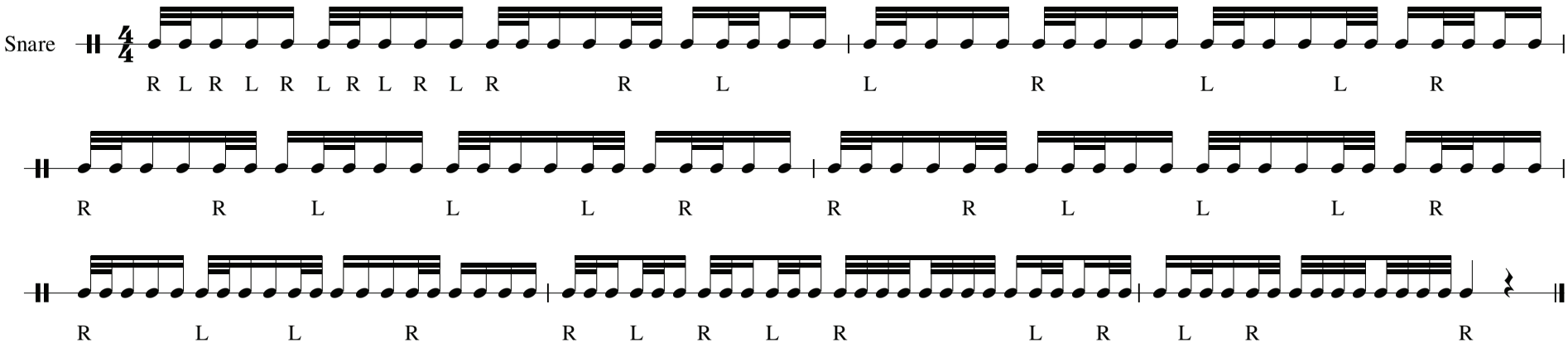

Purpose: This exercise focuses on single stroked diddles, hertas, blurtas, or whatever you prefer to call them.

1) Stick motion: The stick motion for this exercise should be completely legato. Do not stop the stick motion until you hit the final note.

2) Sound Quality: Does every stroke sound the same? How about from left to right hand? Make sure you play every note with the same exact volume. Some common mistakes:

a) Pounding the last note of the long single stroke rolls in the last two measures.
b) At higher tempos, playing the first part of the exercise higher than you can play the rolls at the end. Just because it is easier to play the herta patterns higher doesn't mean you should.
c) Playing the right hand louder than the left... don't be the guy with the weak left!

3) Rhythm and Timing: How perfect is your rhythmic interpretation of the 32nd notes? How about the underlying 16th note pattern? This is a great exercise to play with a friend - take turns playing straight 16th notes while the other plays the exercise to check your rhythm and timing. Also, try variation "a)" described below.

4) Variations to this exercise:

a) Take out all of the 32nd notes and play the 16th note 'skeleton'. It may take some time to get the correct sticking down, but once you have the skeleton solid your rhythm and timing should be much better.
b) Play exercise at different heights; 1", 3", 6", 9", 12", 15", Full.
d) Play on low-rebound surface to improve muscle strength and endurance.