

Hello Prospective Members,

My name is Nick Miller, and I will be the Hawkeye Drumline instructor for the next two years. I am very excited to meet you all, and I am looking forward to an awesome season. Here is a little bit about myself:

I graduated from Webster Groves High School in St. Louis, Missouri where I marched snare drum with Freedom Percussion in 2013. I just graduated with my music education degree from the University of Missouri - Columbia. In my undergrad I did two years of Marching Mizzou. Later on I marched WGI with Gateway Indoor for both the 2016 and 2017 season and received Member of the Year, as well as the MCCGA scholarship for the 2017 season. I also marched snare drum with the Colts Drum & Bugle Corps for the 2016 season. After aging out I have taught at a number of high schools in the Missouri area, and I also returned to Gateway and Colt Cadets as a snare technician.

The clinic/audition materials are up to date on the website. These exercises are very straight forward. Always play with a metronome. I will continue to add more materials to this page as we get closer to auditions. PLEASE read the technique packets I typed out. Practice these exercises the right way. Be very analytical, play in front of a mirror, and FILM YOURSELF. Here are the tempos for each exercise, as well as other notes for sub-sections.

Height/Dynamics

3" - piano (parallel to surface)

6" - mezzo piano

9" - mezzo forte (45 degrees from surface)

12" - forte

15" - fortissimo (perpendicular to surface)

Herky Legatos

120bpm - All dynamics

132bpm - All dynamics

144bpm - 12-3"

156bpm - 9-3"

168bpm - 6-3"

180bpm 6-3"

192bpm 6-3"
204bpm - 3"

Additional Info

- practice variation 1 with crescendos and decrescendos
- each double bar line is a variation
- practice all variations with and without accents
- basses practice all splits with 2s, 3s, and 4s

Double/Triple Beat

96bpm - All dynamics
108bpm - All dynamics
120bpm - 12-3"
132bpm - 9-3"

Additional Info

- Snares/Quads practice filling in all sixteenth notes except for the 8th note hand transfers

Roll Builder

120bpm - All dynamics
132bpm - All dynamics
144bpm - 12-3"
156bpm - 9-3"
168bpm - 9-3"
180bpm 6-3"
192bpm - 6-3"
204bpm - 3"

Additional Info

- think about the rhythms of this exercise and not the "diddles"
- sing the rhythm with a metronome

I have learned from experience that the best way to get good at something is to watch somebody. Below I've included a few links for everyone to watch. These are some of the best drumlines ever. The more you watch good drumlines, the better understanding you have of what they look and sound like :) Please feel free to email me with any questions you may have.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oT3KnN_fLK0 - Cavaliers 2011
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mxbrb0fMmEo> - Cadets 2015
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tj8FSGt2NqA> - Phantom 2010
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l2Kd1lXAXy0> - SOA Plates 2012

Happy Practicing!

Nick Miller

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