

CORE ARTS DRUM KIT LESSON 2. **CLICK OR NO CLICK? That is the question.)**

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Hi everyone. I hope you are keeping well. This lesson is about practicing with a click (metronome) or not. Both methods are completely valid. Firstly, I will talk about the benefits of playing with a click.

I like practicing rudiments – single strokes (LRLRLR etc), double strokes (RRLLRRLL etc), paradiddles (RLRR/LRLL etc). I think you all know these. There are 40 rudiments, if not more. Here is a link to where you can download all of them if you have access to a computer and internet.

https://www.pas.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/pas-drum-rudiments-2018dcccc96de1726e19ba7fff00008669d1.pdf?sfvrsn=fdbeaea5_6

Don't worry if you don't, there is still so much you can do!

So, when I practice I sometimes set up a click from my computer or on my phone. I have an app called Soundcorset on my Android phone which gives you metronome and tuner – it's free and I use it a lot.

So if you want to start with paradiddles for example, set up a click at a slow tempo, say 80 BPM (that's beats per minute) and start playing them in time to the click, using the count of "one and two and three and four and..." etc. These are quavers. Stay in time with the click, keep it relaxed.

If you have sticks do this on a pad, or cushion or chair etc. If you don't have sticks you can use two wooden spoons or just your hands on your legs. Use your imagination!

If you do not have access to a metronome/click app or some music software, then PLAY ALONG TO RECORDS/CDS/MP3/RADIO.

Find a song you like, start with a medium slow one and play along with it – singles (LRLRLR...), doubles (RRLLRRLL...) or paradiddles (RLRR/LRLL....).

ALSO, freestyle along to your favourite music. Just play along and keep it relaxed and in time.

FINALLY, I like to practice with no click or music as well, because this allows me total freedom to slow down/speed up as I like. I can really focus on what the sticks feel like, how my grip feels. Are the sticks bouncing nice and relaxed, yet controlled?