

# Right Hand Lead Part I

Right Hand Lead is an approach to sticking that uses patterns to make it easier to play 16th-based rhythms.

Each rhythm is played with a stick pattern derived from 16th notes (pattern A). By using these stick patterns your right hand will always be leading on the downbeat, and will always play steady 8th notes.

Based on the type of music you are playing sometimes it is best to use Right Hand Lead as opposed to Alternate Sticking (R-L-R-L, etc.).

**A**

R L R L

**B**

R R L

**C**

R L R

**Checklist**

- \*Feel your right hand playing steady 8th notes.
- \*Make sure your hands flow evenly.
- \*Listen for an even sound from both hands. Don't accent one hand over the other!
- \*Look above the drum to see matching stick heights.
- \*COUNT OUT LOUD**

**1**

4X

R R L R

4X

R R L R R L R

4X

R R L R R L R R L R

**2**

4X

R L R R

4X

R L R R L R R

4X

R L R R L R R L R R

*Metronome Range:* 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160

**3**

R L R L etc.

R R L R R L R R L R

R L R R L R R L R R L R

*Metronome Range:* 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160

**4**

R L R L etc.

R R L R R L R R L R R L

R L R R L R R L R R L R

R

R R L R R L

R L R R L R

*Metronome Range:* 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95 100 105 110 115 120 125 130 135 140 145 150 155 160

**5**

R R R L R L R R R L R L R R R R L R R R R L R R R R L R R

(R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L)

R R R R L R R R R L R R R R L R R R R L R R R R L R R

(R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L)

**6**

R R R R R R R R R R R R R L R R R R L R R R R L R R R R

(R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L)

R R L R R R R L R R R R R L R R R R R R R L R R R R R R R

(R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L)

**7**

R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L R R

(R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L)

R R R R R R R R R R R R R R L R L R R R L R L R R R L R L R

(R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L)

**8**

R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L R R

(R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L)

R R R R L R R R R L R R R R L R R R R R R L R R R R R L R

(R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L)

**9**

R R L R R R L R R R L R R R L R R R R L R L R R R L R L R R

(R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L)

R R R L R R R R L R R R R L R R R R R L R L R R R R L R R R

(R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L) (R L)

# Right Hand Lead

## Part II

**A**

R L R L

**B**

R R L

**C**

R L R

**D**

R L L

### Right Hand Lead Hints

Notice that the B and C patterns are the same as the A pattern take away one left hand stroke.

The D pattern is the same as the A pattern take away a right hand stroke. Some find this to be a challenge since your right hand will no longer be playing steady 8th notes. Use the following exercises to develop a comfort with the D pattern.

With lots of repetition it will start to feel natural.

**10** 4X

R L L R

4X

R L L R L L R

4X

R L L R L L R L L R

**11**

R

R R L R R L R R L R R L R

R L R R L R R L R R L R

R L L R L L R L L R L L R

**12**

R

R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R

R R L R R L R L R R L R R L L R L L R

**13**

R R L L R R L L R R L L

R L R R L L R L R R L L R L R R L L

R R L R L L R R L R L L R R L R L L

R R L L R L L R R L R L L R R L R L L



## Right Hand Lead Part III

**A** R L R L      **B** R R L      **C** R L R      **D** R L L

**E** R R (R L)      **F** R L      **G** R L      **H** R L

**I** L R L      **J** L R      **K** L L      **L** L L

### Right Hand Lead Hints

The I, J, K, and L patterns all leave out the note on the downbeat, which can be a challenge for some. It is essential when playing these patterns to continuously subdivide 16th-notes.

Be sure to use correct grip and a wrist stroke that minimize extra motion. Excess motion will lead to timing problems and/or incorrect rhythms.

**29** 4X      4X      4X

L R L R      L R L L R L R      L R L L R L R

**30** 4X      4X      4X

L R R      L R L R R      L R L R R

**31** 4X      4X      4X

L L R      L L L L R      L L L L R

37

R L L L R L L L R L L L R R L L L R L L L R L L R

R L L L R L L L R L L L R R L L L L R L L L L L R L L L R

38

R L R L R L R L R R L L R L R R L L R L R L R L R L R L R L

R L L L R L R L L L L R L R R L R L R R L R L L L R L R L R R R L R L R L R

39

R L L R L L R L L L R R L L L R R L L L R L R L L L R L R L

R L L L L R L L L L L R R L L R R L L R L L L L R R L R L R L R R L L R

40

R L R R L R R L R L R L R R L R L R R R L L R R R L L R

R L L L R R L L L R R R L R R R L R R R L R L L L R R L R R L R R

41

L R L L L L R L L L L R L L L L R L L R L L L R L L L R L L

R L L R L R L L R L L L R R L L L R R L L L R R R L L L R

# Mixed Rhythm Challenge

Use Right Hand Lead to determine effective stick patterns for the rhythms on this page.  
Start by playing each measure separately or make a game by choosing measures at random.  
Then try to play across each line, and eventually play through the entire page.

The image displays 32 numbered musical measures on a single staff in 4/4 time. The measures are arranged in seven rows of four. Each measure is numbered from 1 to 32. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. A large red watermark 'DANIEL PERMUSIC.COM' is overlaid diagonally across the page. A red circle highlights measure 29.