

Old School March

Old School refers to the traditional drumming style that has developed over several hundred years. Because it is often played almost completely with drum rudiments, it is also referred to as rudimental style or rudimental drumming. It was originally developed for military events held outdoors. That is why different drums and thicker or harder sticks and mallets designed for projection and high volume are often used.

Rhythm patterns in the traditional rudimental style are often in 2 or 4 measure phrases. On a basic level, phrases are like musical commas or periods that help organize the music by suggesting pauses between musical ideas. These phrase groupings may sound familiar to you as these are the same groupings used in traditional Western European, American, and several other folk music traditions.

Measures 1-2 and 35-36 are the traditional roll off which, when played by a battery of snares, bass drum, cymbals, and often multiple tom toms, signals the rest of the band, drum corps, or other outdoor ensemble to begin playing a song.

The double stroke in the bucket part (measures 5, 9, and throughout the rest of the piece), will help work on the long roll and other rudiments using double strokes. Strive to play the double strokes, also known as “diddles” (LL, RR), as evenly as if you were alternating strokes (RLRL, etc.).

Because the rudimental rhythm patterns are common and somewhat predictable, you can create a good deal more interest in the piece by closely observing the dynamics indicated. Observing all accents will also add interest.

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Old School March Preparatory Exercises

by Kevin Mixon

1.

R

2.

R L R L R L R

3.

R R L R R

4.

R R R

5.

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

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KENDOR PRESENTS

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Grade 1
duration 1:25

FULL SCORE

Moderato ♩ = ca. 120

Bucket
(or Snare Drum/Tom Tom)

Opt. Garbage Can
(or Bass Drum)

Opt. Auxiliary

Crash Cymbals or Trash Can Lids