

FDUT Technique

(Full, Down, Up, Tap Technique)

When developing rudimental technique, it is important to be mindful of each stroke played. Basically, there are four kinds of strokes in rudimental drumming. Each of these strokes have variations of height and strength. Knowing the kind of each stroke played will enable the player to execute the most complex patterns clearly and consistently.

The basic four strokes are as follows:

The Full Stroke	Begins Up Ends Up	Specified “F” over the note
The Down Stroke	Begins Up Ends Down	Specified “D” over the note
The Up Stroke	Begins Down Ends Up	Specified “U” over the note
The Tap	Begins Down Ends Down	Specified “T” over the note

Note: An “Up Rest” may also be considered when starting from the down position and ending in a down position.

Also, A “Switch Stroke” can be an additional consideration. This is a variant of the down stroke; whereby alternating downstrokes are brought back into the “up” position while the opposite stick is performing a downstroke. Note: This is not typical of the commonly employed “FDUT” technique, but will be employed as a device in playing flams later in this method.

The Full Stroke (F) Begins Up Ends Up

Also called legato strokes, these strokes rebound off the drum head and return to the original position from where they began.

The Down Stroke (D) Begins Up Ends Down

Down strokes begin in the up position and end in the down position, where they are held with very little rebound close to the surface of the drumhead. When beginning from a position where both sticks are in the down position, these strokes may be preceded by a “Lift” at a desired interval immediately before the stroke.

Up Stroke (U) Begins Down Ends Up

The upstroke begins in the down position and ends in the up position. Usually, these are employed as softer strokes, such as non-accented “interior” notes or as grace notes in flams.

The Tap (T) Begins Down Ends Down

Taps begin in the down position, lift immediately before the note and end in the down position, where they are held with very little rebound close to the surface of the drumhead. They are distinguished by down strokes in that they are played at heights of only a few inches or less and are usually employed as softer strokes, such as non-accented “interior” notes or as grace notes in flams.

Switch Strokes (S) Alternating Downstrokes with resting Upstrokes

Alternating downstrokes are lifted into “up” position as the opposing downstroke is being played. This is one way of approaching some of the rudiments and is helpful for some situations, especially in the development of flam technique.

Multiple Bounce strokes are not a feature of this approach but may be considered as variants of Down Strokes. Double Strokes would be usually thought of as taps, Down/Tap combinations or Down/Up combinations.

A good starting point in the development of this technique is using the “FDTU” exercise on one hand. Note the musical example on the separate pdf file.

Stroke: F D T U F D T U, F D T U F D T U

Sticking: R R R R R R R R, L L L L L L L L

More combinations will be available as the rudiments are presented.