

ABOUT RUNNING DOWN

GRACE NOTE RUDIMENTS

by ERIC PERRILLOUX MID 1780's

Why running down rudiments? Because it's the basic learning process to do anything. We crawl before we walk, we walk before we run. And so it is with learning to drum. We start very slowly until we are able to play properly at practical faster tempos.

Always referred to as ornamental and having no particular time value, the fact remains that grace notes do take time to play and when slowed down to almost a standstill as when starting to run down a grace note rudiment they should be precisely timed or counted in relationship to the other strokes in that rudiment.

How can we do this properly?

The rational here is that the usual musical notation of a particular grace note rudiment should never change in form even though it is being purposely slowed down.

If we were to write the notation of the drag paradiddle #2 on a large piece of elastic — and then stretch it out — nothing has changed! In a sense we have just slowed it down.