

# Odd Time Stickings: Compound Stickings For Odd Meter Time Playing And Soloing Percussionists

Percussionists interested in exploring odd meter time signatures and soloing techniques can benefit from incorporating compound stickings into their practice. Compound stickings refer to any technique that involves playing two or more notes with a single hand motion. This approach allows for greater rhythmic complexity and control and can enhance the overall musicality of odd-meter playing.

## Technical Aspects Of Compound Stickings

Compound stickings are often notated with a combination of letters and numbers. The letters "R" and "L" represent the right and left hands, respectively, while numbers indicate the finger to be used. For example, a "RL33" sticking would involve playing notes on beat 1 with the right hand and beat 2 with the left hand, using the third fingers.



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by Gary Chaffee

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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The most common compound sticking patterns include:

- **RL:** A basic alternating pattern, often used in binary meters.
- **LR:** The reverse of RL, also used in binary meters.
- **RRL:** A syncopated pattern, suitable for more complex odd meters.
- **LLR:** The reverse of RRL, also used in odd meters.
- **RLRL:** A repetitive pattern, ideal for creating rhythmic density.

## Benefits Of Using Compound Stickings

- **Increased Rhythmic Control:** Compound stickings allow for more precise and consistent execution of complex rhythms. The alternating nature of the technique improves coordination and fluidity, leading to a more polished performance.
- **Enhanced Musicality:** Compound stickings can add a sense of syncopation and swing to odd-meter playing. The ability to play multiple notes with a single hand motion creates a more dynamic and engaging sound, especially during solo improvisations.
- **Stylistic Versatility:** Compound stickings are a staple of many musical styles, including jazz, Latin, and world music. By mastering these techniques, percussionists can expand their repertoire and explore new rhythmic possibilities.

## Applications For Odd Meter Time Playing and Soloing

- **Odd Meter Time Playing:** In odd meters, compound stickings can help navigate complex divisions of time. For example, in 5/4 time, a

RLRL pattern can accentuate the 2+3 subdivision, while a RRLL pattern can emphasize the 3+2 subdivision.

- **Soloing:** Compound stickings are a powerful tool for soloing, allowing percussionists to create intricate rhythmic lines and melodies. By combining different patterns and fingerings, soloists can generate a wide range of sounds and textures.
- **Drum Set Playing:** Compound stickings can enhance drum set playing by creating more rhythmic interest and variety. They can be applied to fills, beats, and solos to add complexity and groove.

## Exercises For Developing Compound Stickings

- **Start Slowly:** Begin by practicing basic RL and LR patterns on a practice pad or drum. Gradually increase the speed and complexity of the sticking as you become more comfortable.
  - **Use A Metronome:** Using a metronome is essential for developing rhythmic accuracy and consistency. Set the metronome to a slow tempo and focus on executing the stickings evenly.
  - **Try Different Variations:** Experiment with different compound sticking patterns to expand your vocabulary. Combine RL and LR to create RRLL, LLRR, and RLRL patterns.
  - **Listen To Recordings:** Listening to professional percussionists who use compound stickings can provide inspiration and guidance. Pay attention to the patterns they employ and how they incorporate them into their playing.
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Compound stickings are an invaluable technique for percussionists looking to master odd meter time playing and soloing. By incorporating these techniques into their practice, percussionists can enhance their rhythmic control, musicality, and stylistic versatility. With consistent practice and dedication, anyone can develop the dexterity and coordination necessary to execute compound stickings effectively, unlocking new rhythmic possibilities and elevating their overall playing ability.

## Alt Attributes

- **Image 1:** A close-up of a percussionist's hands executing a compound sticking technique.
- **Image 2:** A graphic representation of the RRLL compound sticking pattern, with arrows indicating the hand and finger movements.
- **Image 3:** A portrait of a drummer utilizing compound stickings in a solo improvisation.

## Long Tail SEO Title

The Ultimate Guide to Compound Stickings for Odd Meter Time Playing and Expressive Percussion Soloing



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