

#8 CATERPILLAR

Michael Charles Smith

This exercise practices alternating hand 16th notes, every stroke landing on a different note, and works your concentration.

Begin playing at 30 bpm on your metronome with 16th subdivisions.

1. Clap and count the rhythm only. (First dimension - Rhythm)
2. Starting with your right hand and alternate hands while counting 16th notes outloud - all notes at forte dynamic. (Second dimension - Pitch)
3. Once comfortable with the counting and notes, try the exercise at both p and mf dynamics. (Third dimension - Dynamics)
4. Speed up by 5 bpm per day until you get this up to 60 bpm with 16th notes subdivisions.

Marimba

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

R L R L R L R L

f - mf - p

Mrb.

3

Mrb.

6

Tips and common challenges:

- make sure your prep stroke is in time with the metronome on the "&" of 4
- make sure all notes are equal in volume and stick heights - (some students accidentally accent to the lowest and highest notes)
- make sure your back fingers stay loose
- many students struggle with their dominant hand being too loud, so be mindful of your stick heights.....
- make sure your last notes come up off the bar!

Need a challenge? Try these Mods:

1. Play exercise keeping either the right or left hand in front of the other straddling the center of the bar. Many students only get comfortable with one variation.
2. Play with four mallets using inside mallets.
4. Play exercise starting at piano dynamic, and then crescendo up louder and louder as each peak grows higher. Decrescendo as you come back down to middle C. The high D would be forte.
- 5-15. Play exercise through all 12 major keys
- 16-27. Play in all 12 natural minor keys