

Basic Roll Patterns

There are a lot of different roll patterns. In this video we will cover:

1. The Alternating Thumb Roll
2. Alternating Thumb with Pinch
3. The Forward Roll
4. The Forward/Reverse Roll

Practice these rolls **very slowly** at first. Make sure your **timing is rock solid** before you pick up the tempo. Use a metronome as often as you can stand it. 😊 It is a good habit to get into. Using the metronome and constantly hearing the beat starts to develop an “internal beat” where you feel the pulse of the song inside of you.

The image displays four musical diagrams for drum roll patterns on a three-staff system. The top two diagrams are for 4/4 time, and the bottom two are for 2/4 time.

- Alternating Thumb Roll:** A 4/4 time signature. The pattern consists of four measures. The first two measures are (T I) and (T M). The last two measures are (T M) and (T I). The notation shows a thumb roll (T) followed by an index finger (I) or middle finger (M) roll.
- Alternating Thumb - Pinch:** A 4/4 time signature. The pattern consists of four measures. The first two measures are (T I) and (T M). The last two measures are (T M) and (T I). The notation shows a thumb roll (T) followed by an index finger (I) or middle finger (M) roll.
- Forward Roll:** A 2/4 time signature. The pattern consists of four measures. The first two measures are (I M) and (I M). The last two measures are (I M) and (I M). The notation shows an index finger (I) roll followed by a middle finger (M) roll.
- Forward-Reverse Roll:** A 2/4 time signature. The pattern consists of four measures. The first two measures are (T I) and (M T). The last two measures are (M I) and (T M). The notation shows a thumb roll (T) followed by an index finger (I) roll, and a middle finger (M) roll followed by a thumb roll (T).