THE DRAG

The drag, like the flam, can be played either "open" or "closed". When it is played "open", the grace notes are played as notated, with two distinct reiterations (the action being similar to the controlled bounce in the rudimental roll). The sound is similar to the vocal sound ra-ra-TAT! When the drag is played "closed" the grace notes are played as a closed buzz (the action being similar to that in the buzz roll) rather than as distinct reiterations. The resultant sound should be similar to the vocal sound zzuT!

As in playing the roll and the flam, the performer must decide where to play which type of drag. When the drag is used for emphasis or to elongate the drum sound the "closed" type is usually employed. For martial music the "open" type is used.

Practice the following exercises using both types of drags.



