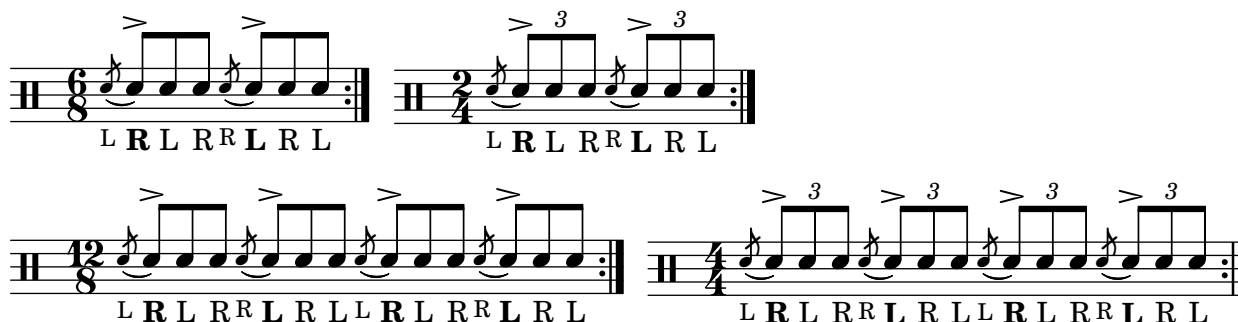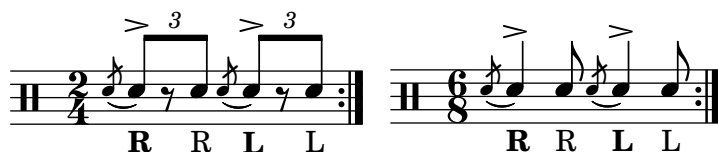# Flam Accents
Flamlets

Flam accents are essentially flam triplets and would be better suited if that were its name. We can even shorten that and call them by a simple and catchy name: *flamlets!* The sticking is alternating – **R**LR **L**RL – with accented flams at the beginning of each 3-note grouping.

On the PAS (Percussive Arts Society) International Drum Rudiments sheet, flam accents (flamlets) are written as if they were in $\frac{6}{8}$. If we were to put a "3" above each grouping the time signature would change to $\frac{2}{4}$. If we were to extend each of these examples to include 4 beats the time signatures would become $\frac{12}{8}$ and $\frac{4}{4}$, respectively. From this we can discern the following analogy – $\frac{6}{8}$: $\frac{2}{4}$ as $\frac{12}{8}$: $\frac{4}{4}$.
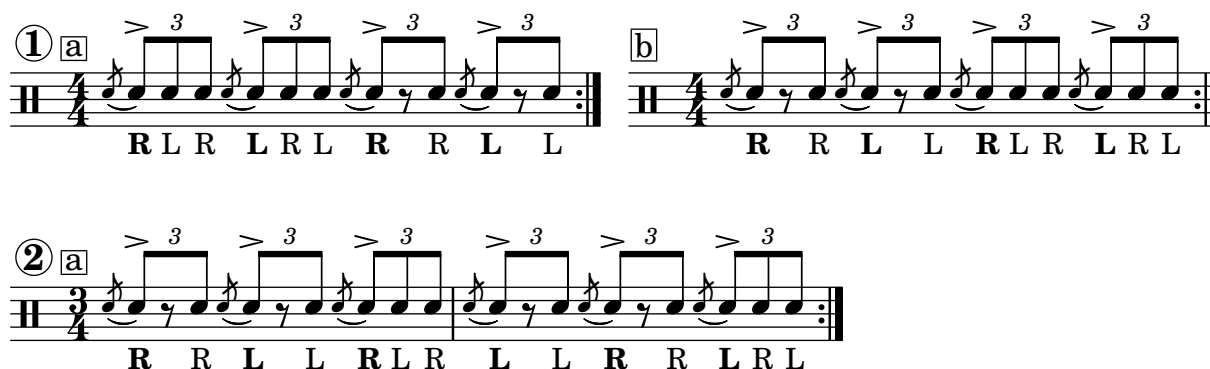

All of this sounds the same. Without the "3" above the notes, it's an 8th note based time signature; With the triplet designation, it's a quarter note based time signature, in which oftentimes it might be easier to think and count.

Flam accent #2 leaves out the middle partial of the triplet. You can also think of this as a flam tap played in a swing feel.
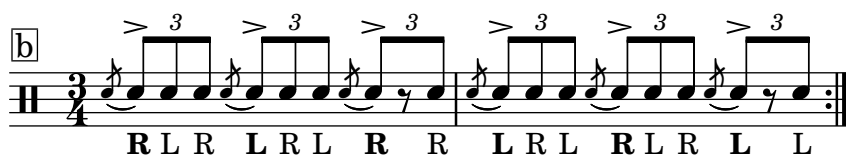

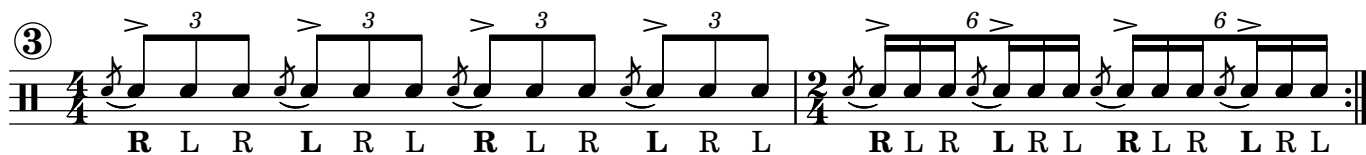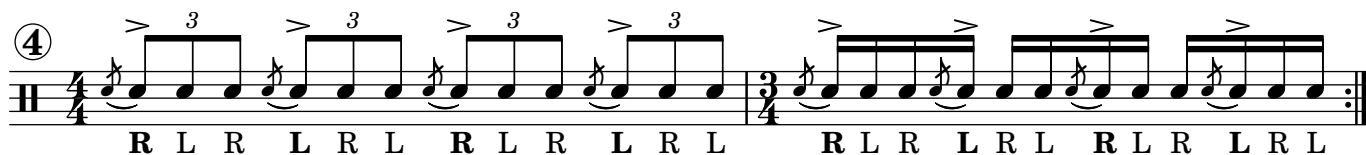Combinations of flam accent and flam accent #2

Flam Accents
Flamlets

Double Time Sprint

This example also has 4 sets of flamlets in each measure, just like ③. Instead of double timing by going to 16th note triplets in the second bar, we're going to the slower rate change of regular 16th notes. This makes it easier to play at a faster tempo. Counting the subdivisions of this phrase out loud is very helpful, as is keeping quarter note time with your foot.

This exercise is a 4-bar phrase in $\frac{3}{4}$. The Flam Accents in bars 1 and 3 are in 16th notes, which creates a 4:3 polyrhythm. The rate change to 8th note triplets in bars 2 and 4, makes it feel like it's slowing down. Keep a quarter note pulse going. The hands switch leads from right in the first two measures, to left in the last two measures.