

A **roll** in percussion is a way to sustain a sound. A buzz roll sustains sound by bouncing notes faster than the human ear can hear them individually, and starts hearing them as a single, long sound.

Fill each note below with buzz sound, blending the bounces and overlapping the hands.

♩=65

Consistently even buzz rolls require a steady feel in the hands. The easiest way to get this is by comparing two distinct levels of buzz, and being able to choose one or the other. Adjusting the hands and fingers to make smooth and even accents within a roll will create this comparison.

Play the following exercise at a variety of volumes and establish a few default “levels” in which your hands feel comfortable. Use these as points of reference in your playing.

♩=80,100,120

The final test of buzz control is a 60 second roll, soft-loud-soft. Make use of arm speed, finger pressure, stroke height and head placement to smoothly adjust tone and volume.