

The Anatomy of the Roll

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One of the most recognizable sounds in percussion is the drum roll. Excluding single stroke rolls, Western traditions of drumming split rolls into two families; **closed rolls** and **open rolls**. Closed rolls are generated using multiple bounce strokes known as buzz strokes, which create a continuous “buzz” sound. Open rolls use double bounce strokes known as diddles, which created a sound much like the tail of a rattlesnake or a ratchet. Closed rolls are generally reserved for concert/orchestral drumming while open rolls are favored for marches and other rudimental drumming.

