

Contents

<i>About the Author</i>	v
<i>Introduction</i>	vi
<i>George Alan Dawson</i>	viii
<i>Discography</i>	xi
1 The Rudiments	1
The American Rudiments	1
The Swiss Rudiments	4
New Innovations	6
Chopsbuilders	8
The Rudimental Ritual	11
Gary's Flams and Arvin's Diddles	22, 23
2 Four-Way Coordination	25
The First Three Ways	25, 26
Filling In Triplets	27
Eight Triplet Ways	30
Advanced Four-Way Coordination	31
Triplet Partial	31
Odd-Time Blues	32
Even Eighth-Note Ideas	34
Jazz Mambo	34
Samba	35
The Kirby Special	36
Cut-Time Rock	36
The ParaBossa and RuffBossa	37
"Oleo"	40
Excerpts from Ted Reed's <i>Syncopation</i>	41
3 Single-Stroke Roll Exercises	45
Mixing Singles and Doubles	46
Doubles, Paradiddles, and Singles	47
4 Soloing	48
Soloing Over an AABA Tune	48
Solo Ideas	49
Boston Eights	59
"Blues for Lester"	62
Trading	66



Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Julia for her unwavering support. Thanks to my father Percy; my sons Corey, Shaka, Niko, and Evan; and my sisters (all three of them) Joy, Leslie, and Sandy. My deepest gratitude to Florence Dawson and the family for making this book possible.

Special thanks to Paul Siegel for his continued faith and support in this project, and to Rob Wallis, Joe Testa, Howard Goldberg, Dave Olsen, Fred Anton and everyone at DCI/Warner Bros.; Andy Zildjian and Steve Oksenuk at Sabian; to John Good and Don Lombardi at Drum Workshop; Carol Calato and Vanik at Calato Regal Tip; John Floros; Jonathan Gorman; and Ron Savage. Thanks to Joel Dorn and Michael Weiner at 32 Records for "Blues for Lester."

Thanks again to Wm. Brinkley for design; Nick Puopolo for the beautiful photography; Ken Fredenberg, Kenny Updegraffe, and Jerry Steinholtz at Toca Percussion; Dean Anderson and Shawn Brown for the biography; Peter Kontrimas; and world-famous PBS Studios.

Photography: Nick Puopolo, Winthrop, MA. Mr. Puopolo has been a freelance jazz photographer for the past thirty years.

Cover and book design: Wm.R. Brinkley & Associates, Somerville, MA

Audio Tracking Information

1. Alan Dawson solo on “Blues for Lester”
2. Introduction

Chapter 1 The Rudiments

3. The three-stroke ruff
4. The single drag
5. The double drag
6. Drag paradiddle #1
7. The Rudimental Ritual: slow version played by John Ramsay
8. The Rudimental Ritual: fast version played by Alan Dawson
9. Alan Dawson talks about improvisation
10. Alan Dawson explains/demonstrates odd grouping patterns in 3/4 and 5/4

Chapter 2 Four-Way Coordination

11. Explanation of four-way coordination
12. Snare drum plays the line
13. Bass drum plays the line
14. Snare drum short/bass drum long
15. The left hand fills in triplets
16. Alternating triplets
17. The triplet roll
18. Three triplet ways switching randomly
19. Bass drum plays the line—the left hand fills in triplets
20. Hi-hat plays the line—the left hand fills in triplets
21. Hi-hat short/bass drum long—the left hand fills in triplets
22. Snare drum plays the line—bass drum fills in triplets
23. Snare drum plays the line—hi-hat and bass drum fill in triplets
24. The eight triplet ways

25. Alan Dawson demonstrates practicing the eight triplet ways
26. Alan talks about heel down technique

Time playing examples

27. Eighth-note triplet partials
28. Second and third partial—bass drum plays the line
29. First and second partial—hi-hat plays the line
30. First and third partial—hi-hat short/bass drum long

Triplet partials in odd times

31. Partial in 3/4
32. Partial in 5/4
33. Partial in 7/4
34. Partial in 9/4
35. Alan plays Odd-Time Blues (5, 7 & 9) on vibraphone
36. Alan talks about time and practicing with the metronome
37. The Jazz Mambo
38. Samba—the left hand fills in eighth notes
39. Samba with one stick and one brush
40. Right hand and right foot unison—the left hand fills in eighths and eighth-note triplets
41. The Kirby Special
42. Cut-time rock and variation played by Alan Dawson
43. The Para-Bossa
44. The Ruff-Bossa
45. Ruff-Bossa variation
46. The Roy Haynes Special
47. Alan demonstrates hi-hat short with foot, long with stick and “Oleo”
48. John Ramsay’s notes on Alan’s performance—Alan demonstrates
49. Alan talks about rudiments, other drummers, playing to records
50. Alan Dawson closing solo

A note about the audio

Some of the audio examples played by Alan Dawson were remastered from cassette tapes made on a home tape recorder by the author during his drum lessons (some during the early 1970s). Therefore, the sound is not the best possible quality on these particular tracks.

Lesson 2

Single ratamacue

LLR L R L RR L R L R

Double ratamacue

LLR LLR L R L RR L RR L R L R

Triple ratamacue

LLR LLR LLR L R L RR L RR L RR L R L R

Lesson 3



Drag paradiddle #1

R LLR L R R L RR L R L L

Drag paradiddle #2

R LLR LLR L R R L RR L RR L R L L

Lesson 25

R LLR L R LLR L L RR L R L RR L R

Lesson 4

Flam

L R L R
R L R L
L R R L

Flam tap

L R R R L L

Flam accent

L R L R R L