Quad-a-diddles

Here are a few ways to use the Paradiddle sticking (and it’s Inversions) to get around the Quads. Once you have a handle on these ideas, mix-&-match the stickings for an endless number of possible combinations.

These exercises are written with the assumption that your Quads are arranged (left to right) 4 – 2 – 1 – 3 (1 being the highest pitched, 4 being the lowest).

First we’ll use the standard RLRR-LRLL sticking; four notes on each drum.

Now play the Paradiddles between the 1st & 2nd drums, move your hands to drums 3 & 4, then drums 1 & 4, and, of course, drums 2 & 3.

As another exercise, we’ll try moving the pattern down the drums, and then back up!

The next sticking is an inversion of the regular Paradiddle sticking. The double is now in the middle of each beat: RLLR-LRRL

Let’s move the double to the first two notes of the beat: RRLR-LLRL

Our final sticking shifts the double to the transition point from one beat to the next; essentially ‘in-between’ the beats: RLRL-LRLR

Don’t forget to combine these stickings and create your own patterns. Have fun!