

# Graeme Francis – Stick Control

## Intro

1. The book is called “Stick Control”, not “Super Fast Sticks.”  
Work through these exercises at a wide variety of tempos so that you have really well-rounded technique, making you more musically versatile.
2. Always practice with intention – what is it you’re working on? Stamina, dynamic control, speed, consistency of sound, phrasing, staying relaxed? Decide before you start, and you’ll be much more efficient.
3. Play along with a metronome or music. Using a met will help with your precision, and playing along with music, especially if the recording was made without a click track, will help you learn how to adjust to small tempo fluctuations on the fly – this is an absolutely necessary skill for any working musician.
4. Work through these exercises on different surfaces (practice pad, snare, timpani, toms, cymbals, marimba, vibes, etc) with different sticks/mallets/brushes. Having control of your technique as a percussionist means being in control on all of your instruments.
5. Remember that technique is only a means to a *musical* end – the goal of these exercises, and the book itself, is to help prepare you be as musical as possible in any playing situation.
6. There are lots of variations on these first three pages that are not covered in the videos, and even more that I’ve never seen. You’re limited only by your creativity here – if you have a technical issue that you want to work through, I encourage you to make up your own variations and share them with students, colleagues, and me!