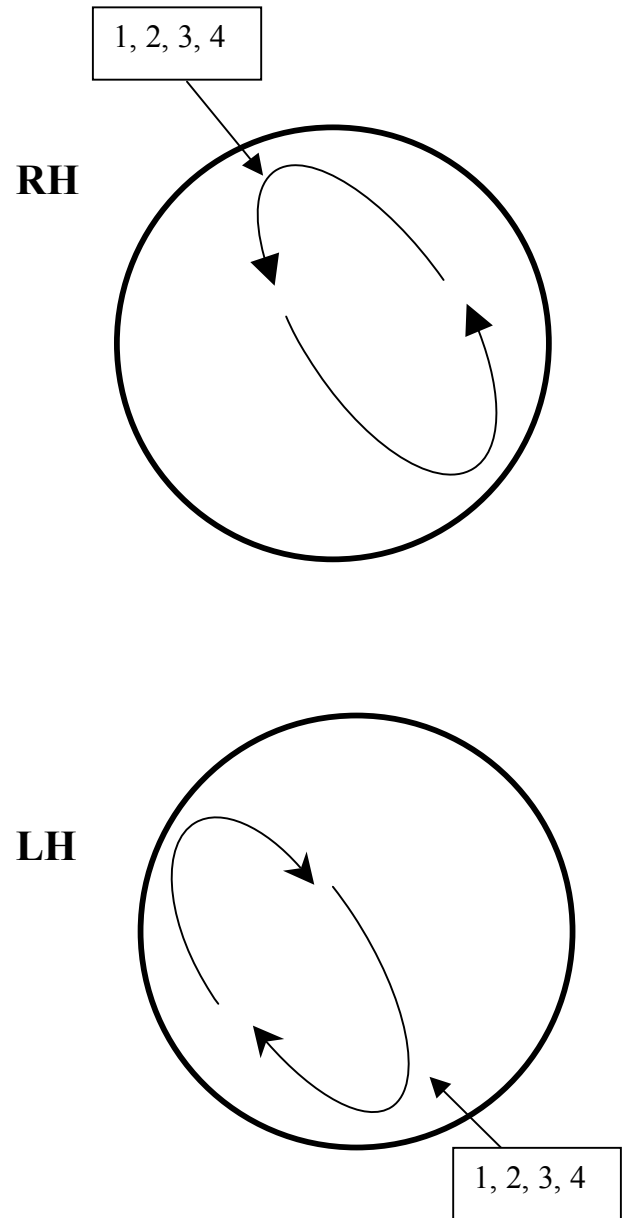


Brushes: 4/4 basics

'4 sweep': 4 sweeps, or revolutions, per measure (1 per quarter note)

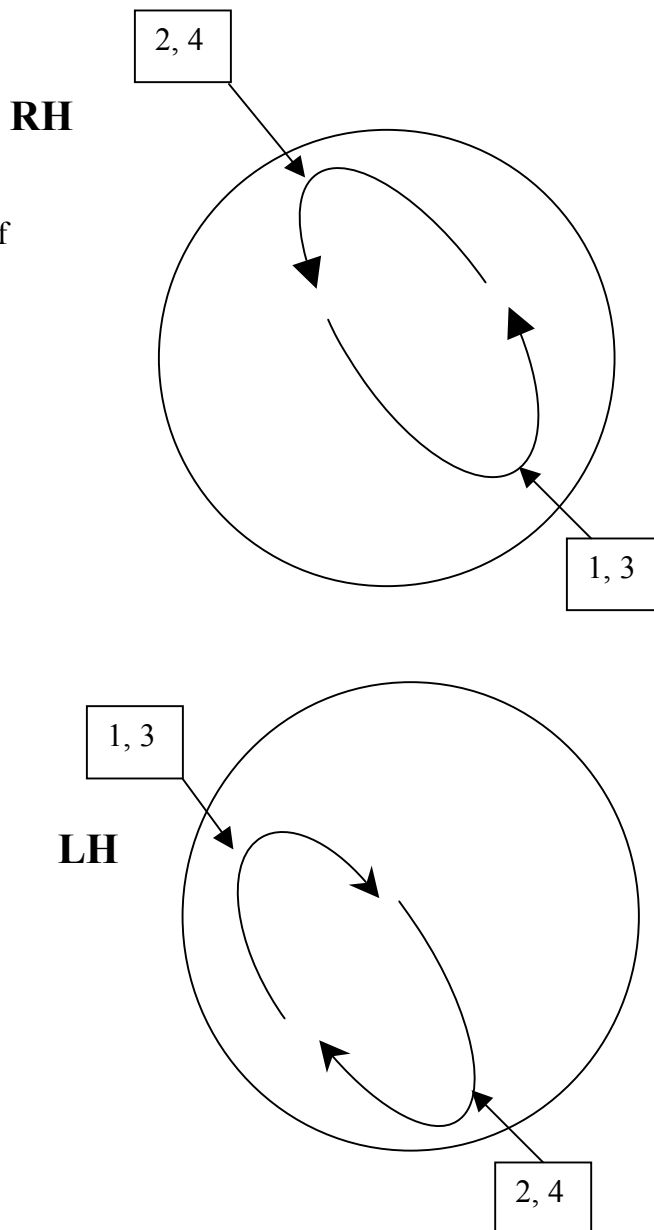
- The 'sweep' sound is the most characteristic and identifiable sound with brushes
- The sweep is produced by moving the brush in an almost circular motion while keeping the strands in contact with the drum head
- Strive for smooth even sweeps
- Keep your hands moving in the tempo of the piece you're playing
- Try using the tips of the brushes for the sweep
- Vary the size and shape of the sweep for different sound
- The larger the sweep, the louder the volume
- The more circular the sweep the more even the sound; the more oval or angular the sweep the more rhythmic the sweep
- Add a slight accent or 'push' on 2 & 4, or 1, 2, 3, & 4. This sound (accent) is created by moving the brush faster as it travels over the quarter note, or wherever the accent is desired
- If you'd like to avoid having your hands passing over/under each other and entangling the brush strands, make the shape of your sweeps more oval than round. You can also avoid hand/brush overlap by having each hand play its sweep on separate portions of the drumhead (as shown in the example to the right).



Brushes: 4/4 basics

'2 sweep': 2 sweeps/revolutions per measure

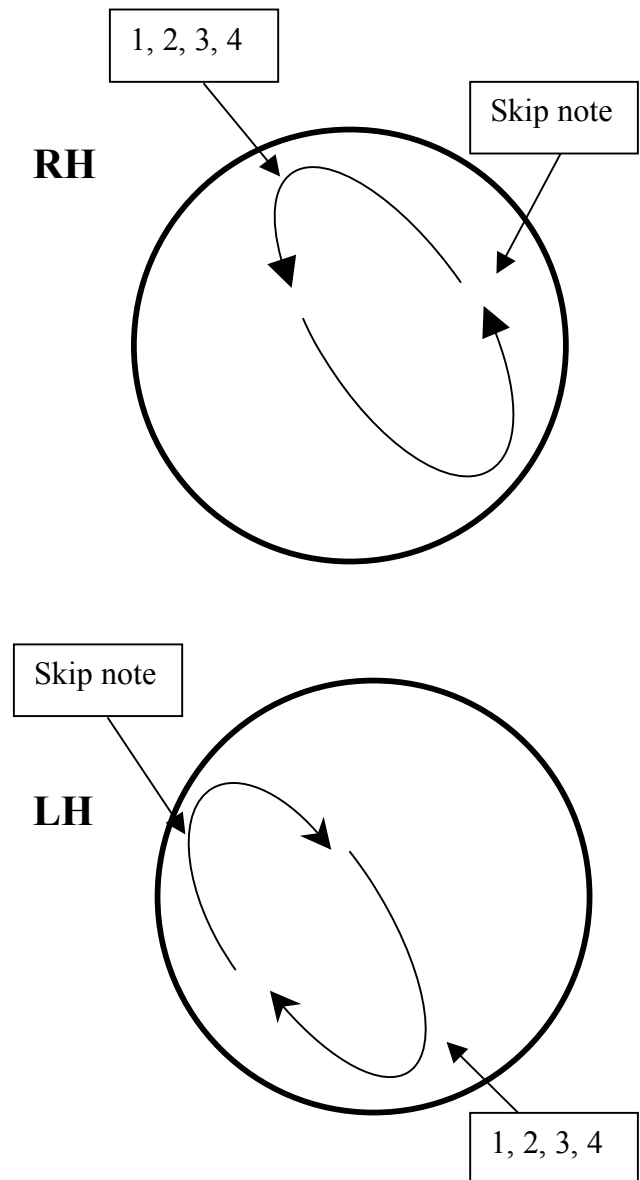
- The decision to play a 2-sweep or a 4-sweep is based largely on the tempo of the song, not whether the bass is playing in a '2' feel (2 half notes per measure), or '4' feel (4 quarter notes per measure)
- At slower tempos, a 4sweep usually works best. As the tempo increases, you will reach the point where it becomes easier, and more musical, to play a 2-sweep.
- It will also be easier to play fast tempos if you play smaller sweeps
- Try varying the shape of the sweep, making it more angular, or straight back and forth, for a different sound/feel



Brushes: 4/4 basics

'4 sweep' with jazz time

- While playing with sticks, it's common for the right hand to play the jazz ride pattern, however with brushes, because both hands are often playing on the same sound (snare drum), you have greater flexibility to play the 'skip' note with either hand
- Try playing the skip note with the right hand while still playing the sweep with the RH...keep the brush on the drum and achieve the skip rhythm by speeding up slightly to get more volume...the left hand continues to play quarter note sweeps
- Also try playing the skip note with the left hand while still playing the sweep with that hand...keep playing quarter sweeps with the right hand
- The diagram at the right shows an approximate location where the skip note would occur during the sweep with either hand. Find the ideal location within the shape of your sweep to play your skip note
- Remember to keep the sweeps as smooth as possible, and try to not make 'too much' out of the skip note (don't play it too loud). Go, instead, for a smooth and even sound to the sound and feel of your 'time'.



Brushes: 4/4 basics

'2 sweep' with jazz time

- The decision to play a 2 or a 4-sweep is based largely on the tempo of the song
- At faster tempos, try reducing the size of your sweeps
- Try varying the shape of the sweep, making it more angular, or straight back and forth, for a different sound/feel
- Try playing and accenting just the skip note with the left hand (in other words, don't accent the quarters with that hand), and while doing this accent just the quarters with the right hand
- If you want to play steady jazz time, including the skip notes, with the RH, especially as the tempo increases, it will be easier to do this if you make a slight adjustment to your hand positions on the drum, as shown in Fig 2, below.

