

Irish Traditional Music (Ornamentation) – Tin Whistle

First: Breathing, legato , long breath (almost don't need to blow). The breath makes for a stream of air that you break up into notes by the ornaments.

Don't tongue much/at all. There is a little touch to the upper front pallette to articulate some notes

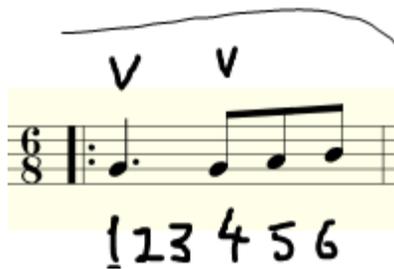
Don't interpret staff notation as written, to sound right (traditional Irish) the music needs to slur over the bar lines.

Don't sound each note individually. (Legato not Staccato)

In the ornamentation section below devices (cuts, taps, rolls etc) are used to add rhythm, to enforce the rhythm. These ornaments are not melodic, they are not meant to be an interval, their only purpose is to emphasise a beat, and support the rhythm.

Rhythm (Fig 1)

6/8



4/4 Reels



Ornamentaion

Cuts

A cut is a grace note, sounded above the note being ornamented. It has no time value. It is attached to, and part of the time associated with the note it is gracing.

Cuts are an important way to emphasise the strong beats in the bars, see Fig 1. Especially the 1 and 4 in double jigs and 1 and 3 in reels.

Also useful in conjunction (sometimes) with a subtle tonguing to articulate ie. Separate, two notes of the same pitch: 4:4 | EA **cut** AG **cut** A2Bd |.

Here the first cut is to help articulate the neighbouring A's and emphasise the third A in the bar.

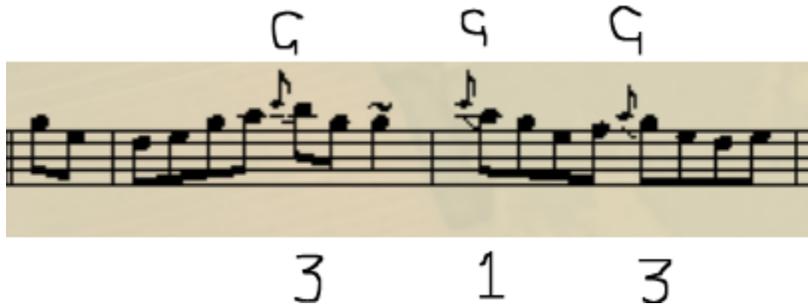
Note	D	E	F#	G	A	B
Cut with:	G	G	G	A	C Nat.	C#

In the figure below, (from the reel Maud Millar):

the B on beat 3 is cut with a c#,

in the second bar, the A on beat 1 is cut with a c-nat,

the g on beat 3 is cut with an a.

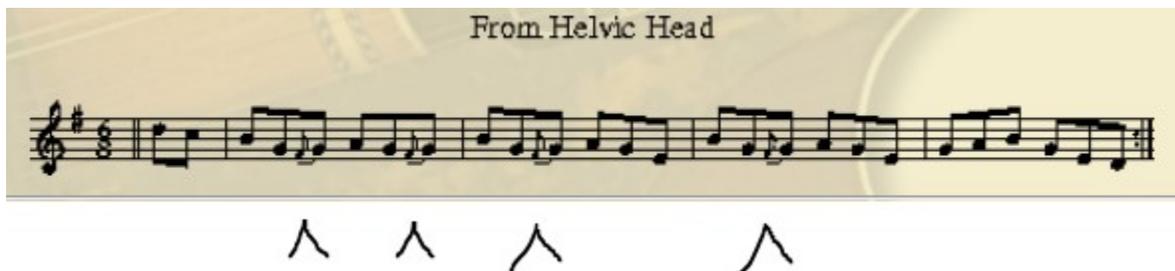


Taps

Taps are like cuts , but they are sounded below the note they are gracing. They have no time value. They are attached to, and part of the time associated with the note being graced.

Useful for seperating two similar notes.

Some players use taps to emphasise the rhythm, I tend not to so much.



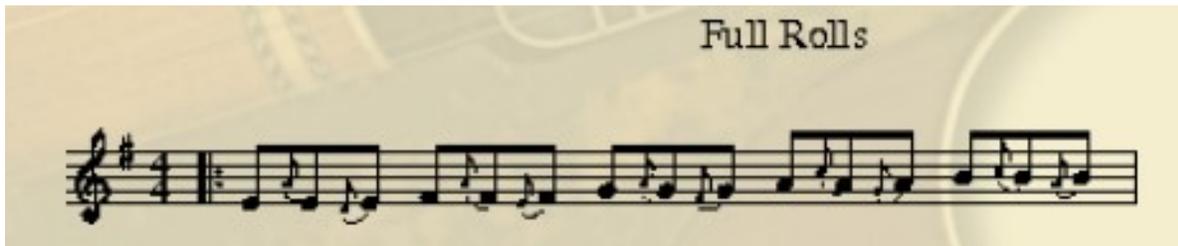
Rolls

Rolls are a combination of cuts and taps. There are full rolls and half (or short) rolls.

Full rolls occupy a 1.5 beats (a dotted crochet). Half-rolls occupy a single beat. These are purely a rhythmic device.

TIP: Hold down the main note shape when cutting eg. For F#, hold the F# shape and cut and tap around it, with a snappy G and E.

When 'holding' the main note, In the notation below, the cuts written are not actual notes (due to the held main note). They break up the main note, but won't always sound clean. They go by quickly , so its OK. The rhythm is the thing.



The tap is heavier than the cut. There must be an audible tap for a satisfying roll. Use a metronome to count out the “1-2-3” of a roll, then speed it up to be able to play at tune speed.

To roll a note you break up the main note being rolled with a cut and a tap. The tap is always the note below the main note, the cut can vary.

Main Note	D	E	F#	G	A	B
Cut with: (Finger)	N/A	G	G	G	C Nat. *	C#
Cut Fingering	N/A	XXO XXO	XXO XOO	XXO OOO	OXO OOO	OOO OOO
Tap with:	N/A	D	E	F#	G	A

* The C Nat used to cut the A is not an attempt to play a C Nat of the correct pitch. Instead the fingering used is: OXO OOO

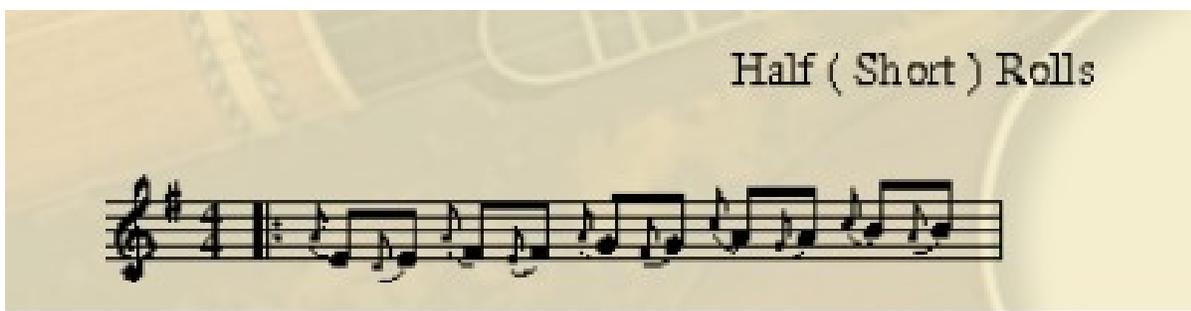
Short Rolls

Like full rolls, short rolls are a combination of cuts and taps. The same ones used for full rolls in the table above.

Half-rolls occupy a single beat (a crochet). Again these are purely a rhythmic device.

These take a lot of practice, as they start with the cut instead of the main note. You must NOT sound the main note first, the first sound is the cut.

Same fingering as full rolls above, but don't sound the main note leading in.



Crans

Crans are an ornament taken from piping. They are used to ornament low D, where there is no note lower and so the ornament consists of a flurry of cuts above the note.

Low D and low E are usually the only notes where cranning is used.

Short Rolls

Crans

From The Humours Of Ballyloughlin

15 Crochets

The image shows a musical score for the piece 'From The Humours Of Ballyloughlin'. It consists of two staves of music in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 6/8 time signature. The first staff begins with a 'v' (accents) above the first note. A handwritten arrow labeled 'Short Rolls' points to the first two notes. A handwritten bracket labeled '15 Crochets' spans the first five measures of the second staff. The word 'Crans' is written in the upper right area of the image.