

lapis touch

(dedicated to Barthes' erotic pianist)

a study for the augury

ca. 2'30" ~ 3'

bass drum, snare, or other untuned percussion with matt-coated skin. possibly amplified.

With overwrought softness, *lapis touch* is a study of delicate skin: the flesh and grain of fingertips sticking to and pulling against the instrument's surface. While the notation inevitably privileges the attack impulses of each action, the friction and release of your contact with the skin are no less vital.

②

density: Arabic numeral in circle denotes total number of fingers touching percussion skin. *n*-fingertips tap softly, articulating the following line (either a stroking **hiss** or held **still**, see below). Almost fricative.

(i)

digits: Roman numeral denotes which finger to use — thumb (i), index (ii), middle (iii), ring (iv), or little finger (v). Where no finger is given the choice is free.

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hiss: *n*-fingers slowly stroke the skin with an even circular motion. The sound is a soft and smooth "hiss", interrupted by quick changes in direction (see right) or a 'breath' (?) in which the finger briefly releases from the skin then re-articulates.



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still: *n*-fingers pressing firmly on skin but held static and not moving/drawn. Focus on the attack and release.

release/pull-off: where a line is cut short, the fingers should lift off the instrument. The stickiness of fingers should make this action audible as they peel off causing a soft "ping".



distant tap: articulate with a barely perceptible 'tap' of fingertips onto skin. Noticeably softer than main layers; sounding distant, as if from another room. Subcutaneous.



arpeggio: fingers roll lightly onto skin.



tremolo: fingers tapping light and fast but independently and irregular. Soft indistinct rainfall.

Playing position on the drum is free (as required by motion of hiss gestures) unless where specified: at the **centre** or **edge** of the skin.

Fingers/handspan can be **spread** wide or drawn **close** together. Anything not specified is at a relaxed position.

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flesh meeting skin
(or other untuned percussion)

"exanguine" one bar approx. 6"-7"





