

Quarter & Eighth Note Variations

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In this month's issue we are going to put into practice what we learned in lessons 1 and 2. As far as the kit patterns are concerned this will take a little more co-ordination, especially when playing 1/8th note bass drum patterns with a 1/4 note hi-hat. You may find it difficult not playing the hi-hat with the added bass drum beat. To overcome this, lift the hi-hat stick nice and high using big strokes from the forearm - the more positive you are with your movement the better. However when playing 1/8th note hi-hats you should play more from the wrist, the idea being that as we get quicker we use smaller muscle groups.

Ex 1

Here we play 1/4 notes on the hi-hats, with the snare on 2 and 4 and the bass drum on beats 1 and 3 &. As we are playing some 1/8th notes on the bass drum it is better to count 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & through the bar rather than just 1 2 3 4.

1

2

3

4

Ex 2

Now we try the same bass drum variation whilst playing 1/8th notes on the hi-hats

Ex 3

Back to 1/4 notes on the hi-hats, but this time with the bass drum playing on the 1 and the & 3. You will find that there is more co-ordination involved in playing the 1/4 note patterns because the bass drum plays both with and without the hi-hats.

Ex 4

Finally 1/8th note hi-hats with the & 3 bass drum variation.

Ex 5

Time for some reading and sticking practice. Here we start to mix up our 1/4 and 1/8th notes across the bar. Remember to count - it helps keep the intervals between the beats even.

5

R L R L R L
L R L R L R

Ex 6

Another 1/4 and 1/8th note example. At this stage you could try writing some of your own variations, or playing the rhythm around the kit. For examples, check out the website.

6

R R L R L R
L L R L R L

Ex 7

Here we use our 1/8th and 1/4 note rests to create what's known as a "3 over 4" or a universal pattern.

7

R L R
L R L

Ex 8

Another common example of how to use rests to create more syncopated rhythms. As suggested in last month's lesson, try playing through each rhythm for 4 bars, move on to the next, then 2 bars and finally 1 bar each.

8

R L L R
L R R L

These are just a few examples of kit patterns and reading exercises that can be played using our 1/4 and 1/8th notes.

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