

Sixteenth Notes Reading & Sticking

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Hello and welcome to our fourth lesson. So far we have covered 1/4 and 1/8 note kit patterns and reading exercises. At this point the complete beginner following this course should have a good understanding of how to read, construct and play some basic rock and pop grooves with variations on the bass drum. For all you players that didn't understand the "dots" I hope that this has shed some light on the subject!

This month we are going to look at 1/16th notes. We'll start as usual by building a groove and learning the count, and then move on to using a rest or 1/8th notes to create more syncopation.

Ex 1

For the purpose of building a groove I have placed the 1/16th notes on the hi-hats using a single sticking (although this could also be played on the snare drum, or around the kit). A good exercise is to practise playing 1/4 notes for a bar, then into 1/8 notes and finally moving up to 1/16 notes for a bar making sure you count all the time. You'll find this written out on the website.

Ex 2

Getting back to our groove, as with our previous kit patterns we now place the bass drum on beats 1 and 3. Keep counting and make sure the bass drum sits comfortably with the hi-hats before you move on.

Ex 3

We now place the snare on beats 2 and 4. As you are playing single strokes on the hi-hats you now have to drop your lead hand onto the snare rather than play the hats on these beats. This gives you a basic 1/16th note groove.

Ex 4

Now we have established our basic groove we can try a bass drum variation. In this exercise we will play beats 1 and 3& on the bass drum. As with the 1/4 and 1/8th note patterns there are lots of variations that will give a different feel to your groove so check out the site for more examples.

Ex 5

In these exercises we are going to look at the 1/16th note rest and how we can use it to create syncopation. Here I have placed a rest on the "e" of every set of 1/16th notes. Play through slowly counting 1 e & a. Remember to count the beat even if you don't play it. You should also practice leading with either hand.

Ex 6

Here we have exactly the same rhythm but written using the 1/8th note on the first beat. The value of the 1/8th note takes us from beat 1, misses the "e" and ends up on the "&" thereby creating the same space as using the rest.

Ex 7

This time the rest is on the "a"

Ex 8

Here we are using the 1/8th note to create the same rhythm as in Ex 7. The 1/8th note is on the "&" so the value of the beat takes us past the "a" which creates the same space as using the rest. Remember to practise slowly and count out loud.

1

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

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

2

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

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

3

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

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

4

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

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

5

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

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

6

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

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

7

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

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

8

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

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

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