

# Lesson 5

## Ghost Notes

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Hi and welcome. This month we are going to look at "ghost" notes. These are beats that are played a lot lighter than others to create more dimension to your playing. To do this we are going to use the 1/16th note studies from last month, and to keep up the reading we're going to finish off by looking at another couple of 1/16th reading examples.

### Ex 1

The idea behind this exercise is to practice the placement and the technique of playing "ghost" notes on the snare whilst keeping the hi-hats even and constant in volume. We are using the two 1/16th note rhythms we learnt last month - on beats 1 and 2 we are missing the "e" and on beats 3 and 4 we miss the "a". You can see we have separated the hands between hi-hats and snare. All snare beats should be played using a "wrist tap" which is a beat played "very lightly" and close to the head. To produce this keep the forearm static and use only a small dip of the wrist to create the beat.

### Ex 2

In this exercise we look at building a 1/8th note groove with an added ghost note. It's worth spending time on the hands before we add the bass drum to make sure the main snare beats on 2 and 4 are loud and proud, whilst the "ghost" note is only just heard.

### Ex 3

Now we add the bass drum - in this example the bass drum is on the 1 and the 3&. Make sure the "ghost" note stays in position as you may find that it gets pulled slightly towards beat 3 rather than sitting evenly between the hi-hats.

### Ex 4

We now start the process off again but with the "ghost" note in a different position. Remember to play the 2 and 4 positively but the "ghost" note as quietly as you can.

### Ex 5

Once again we add the bass drum but this time it's on beats 1 and &3.

### Ex 6

In the final example we now add both the "ghost" notes that we have been working on, with the bass drum back on beats 1 and 3&.

### Ex 7

Time for some more reading examples. We are continuing from last month by looking at two more ways to use rests or 1/8th notes to create syncopation. In this first example we are missing out the "&".

Once again this can be written two ways, first by placing an 1/8th note in position "e" to create the space or by placing a rest on the "&".

### Ex 8

Last but not least we now miss out the first beat of every set of 1/16th notes. Unlike the other examples there is only one way to write this and that is to use the rest.

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