

Lesson 8

8th Note Triplets

Printed in Drummer Magazine, April 2007

Hi and welcome once again. This month we are going to look at 1/8th note triplets. As the name suggest these are sets of three beats played evenly across the bar with the first beat of each triplet starting on the "pulse" (i.e. 1,2,3,4). This creates a very different "feel" to straight 1/8th or 1/16th notes and would generally be used with any style of music that has a swing feel.

Ex 1

This exercise is all about getting used to the sticking and practising the count as you play. We are using a single stroke which means the lead hand changes on the start of each triplet. As we are just working on the snare drum at the moment you should practise starting with either hand, remembering to count and keep the beats even.

Ex 2

Now we are going to put the triplets around the kit. To save any awkward crossing over of sticks at this point you should lead with your right if you're right handed and vice-versa.

Ex 3 & 4

In the next two exercises we are moving around the kit within the sets of triplets. This will give you much more scope when using a triplet for a fill.

Ex 5

We are now going to place the triplets on the hi-hats, playing the bass drum on beats 1 and 3 with the snare on beats 2 and 4 to create a basic groove. As we are using a single stroke there is no hi-hat beat on 2 and 4 - the stick playing beats 2 and 4 drops onto the snare instead.

Ex 6

When you feel comfortable with the basic groove the next things to try are some bass drum variations. In this exercise we are adding another beat on the "Let" of beat 3.

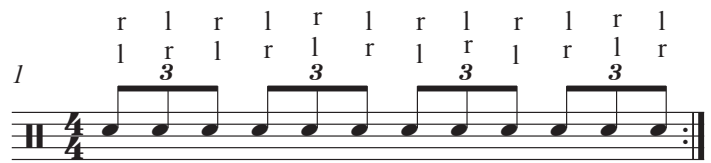
Ex 7

Here is another bass drum variation - this time with the added beat on the "Let" of beat 2. This can be a little harder because the bass drum beats are closer together, so make sure they sit tight with the hi-hats.

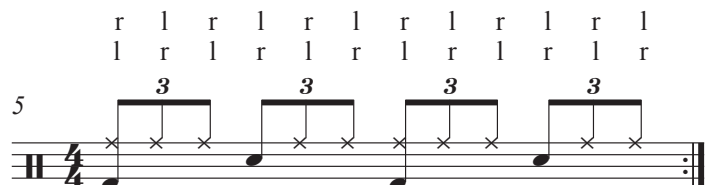
Ex 8

Finally we are going to place both the variations into the groove. This can be quite demanding on your bass drum so "go slow and get it to flow" and remember to count!

Well that's all we've got time for folks! For more grooves and fills visit www.back2thebeat.co.uk or if you have any questions or comments contact me on info@back2thebeat.co.uk



1 Trip Let 2 Trip Let 3 Trip Let 4 Trip Let



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