

Lesson 9

Triplets and "Dotted Feel" Grooves

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Hi and welcome once again.

In last month's issue we looked at 1/8th note triplets and how to apply them using single strokes i.e. r l r l r l. Now we are continuing our study on triplets by looking at a different way of sticking and how we can use the triplet to create what's known as a "dotted feel" or shuffle. Start all of these exercises at 50 bpm and build your speed gradually - this will help you maintain control and the keep triplets evenly spaced.

Ex 1

We begin this study by looking at the sticking (the sticking is reversed for left handed players). Make sure you count and keep it even.

Ex 2

As you can see we have now moved the right hand on to the hi-hats. As you are playing the pattern, try to keep the snare "ghosted" (play it as quietly as possible) and listen to the rhythm the hi-hats are creating.

Ex 3

Now we are taking the middle beat out of the triplet and replacing it with an 1/8th note rest. By doing this we have created space in the rhythm which gives us our "dotted" feel or shuffle on the hi-hats. Make sure you still count the full triplet to keep the beats in place.

Ex 4

When you feel comfortable with the hi-hat pattern we can add the bass drum and snare to develop some basic "dotted feel" grooves. Start with the bass drum on 1 and 3 and play the snare drum on 2 and 4.

Ex 5

Here we add another bass drum beat on the "let" of beat 3.

Ex 6

Another bass drum variation - this time we add another bass drum on the "let" of beat 2.

Ex 7

In this exercise we are going to use our hi-hat pattern over 2 bars, playing the snare on beat 3 of each bar - this gives us a "Half Time" feel. The bass drum pattern is the reason we repeat after 2 bars, as you can see it changes its pattern from bar to bar. This is very common in funk and R&B.

Well that brings us to the end for this month. For more "dotted" grooves visit www.back2thebeat.co.uk any questions or comments contact me at info@back2thebeat.co.uk

Till next time, take care. Steve.

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