

Lesson 11

Jazz Co-ordination and Independence

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Hi and welcome. In last month's issue we worked on our jazz ride pattern with the hi-hat foot on beats "2" and "4" and the bass drum playing on all of the 1/4 notes. We were also using a technique called "feathering" the bass drum, meaning that we play it very softly. After this we added some snare beats on the "2" or the "4" to set up a basic jazz groove.

To continue our study on jazz we will now look at some positions of "ghost" notes on the snare drum - this is known as jazz co-ordination or independence. It is absolutely crucial that you keep counting to make sure all of the snare beats fit comfortably against the ride cymbal pattern. Reverse sticking for left handed players.

Ex 1

If you look at the ride cymbal you will notice that it is playing our basic jazz ride pattern with the snare drum falling on the "Let" of beats "1" and "3". This is called "Independence" as the snare plays in between the cymbal pattern. When you can play the pattern and count along comfortably you can then add the bass drum on the "1, 2, 3" and "4" with the hi-hat foot on beats "2" and "4".

Ex 2

The snare is now on the "Let" of beats "2" and "4" and this time it plays with the ride cymbal. This is called "Co-ordination". Once again, add the bass drum and hi-hat foot when the snare is neatly in place.

Ex 3

We now put the two exercises together in one bar. Remember to count, keep the snare light and add the bass and hats when you're ready.

Ex 4

Now we have gained some co-ordination and independence with these exercises we are going to look at some common ways of using them. Here we have the snare "ghosted" on the "Let" of beat "1" and on beat "4".

Ex 5

The snare is now on the "2" and the "Let" of beat "3".

Ex 6

We stick with the snare on the "2" and the "Let" of beat "3" but are also adding it on the "Let" of beat "4".

Ex 7

All change! The snare is now on the "Let" of beats "1" and "2" and then on beat "4"

Ex 8

This time we are placing a snare on beat "1", the "Let" of beat "2" and on beat "4".

The next step would be to try all of these exercises using the right hand on the hi-hat with the open and closed sound that we looked at last month. This can prove a little more awkward as you need to be very precise with the hi-hat foot to get a good sound. From there, start to play from one exercise to another keeping the jazz ride pattern in place and moving from hi-hat to ride cymbal every 4, 8, or 16 bars.

For more lessons, videos and information, visit www.back2thebeat.co.uk

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