

Lesson 12

Quarter Note Triplets

Printed in Drummer Magazine, August 2007

Hi and welcome once again.

Over the last few months we have looked at eighth note triplets and how we can use them to create a jazz ride or a swing pattern. In this month's issue we are going to use the same system to create a quarter note triplet and get to understand exactly how they fit across a bar.

Ex 1

Here we have a bar of eighth note triplets with the counting system written below. To begin with, play through the bar keeping the triplets even and counting as you play. The next step is to add the accents (>) which create two "crotchet" or quarter note triplets across the bar. The first starts on beat 1 and crosses over beat 2 while the second quarter note triplet starts on beat 3 and crosses over beat 4. Remember to keep counting and listen out for those accents as these will give you an accurate sense of how the quarter note triplet fits across a bar.

Ex 2

This is how quarter note triplets are written. I have kept the eighth note triplet counting system in place so you can see exactly how these fit across the bar.

Ex 3

The next step involves some independence. In this exercise we are playing the quarter note triplets on the hi-hats whilst keeping the bass drum on beats 1,2,3 and 4. Remember to count as this will help you place the beats accurately.

Ex 4

Over the next few exercises we are going to play some other rhythms over beats 1 and 2, then end the bar with a quarter note triplet. When you feel comfortable each exercise, try playing them around the kit. We start in exercise 4 with two quarter notes.

Ex 5

This time we have two eighth note triplets and a quarter note triplet to complete the bar.

Ex 6

Here we try two sets of eighth notes before our quarter note triplet.

Ex 7

For this exercise we have two sets of sixteenth notes before the quarter note triplet. You should now have a good understanding of how the quarter note triplet fits and sounds against other sub divisions.

Ex 8

So far we have placed the quarter note triplet starting on beat 3. For this final exercise we are going to play the triplet starting on beat 1, a set of eighth notes on beat 3 and then a set of sixteenth notes on beat 4.

As always there are loads of variations when you start mixing up rhythms like this, and for more examples visit www.back2thebeat.co.uk . Any questions or comments email me on info@back2thebeat.co.uk .

1

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

2

1 TripLet 2 TripLet 3 TripLet 4 TripLet

3

1 TripLet 2 TripLet 3 TripLet 4 TripLet

4

1 TripLet 2 TripLet 3 TripLet 4 TripLet

5

1 TripLet 2 TripLet 3 TripLet 4 TripLet

6

1 TripLet 2 TripLet 3 TripLet 4 TripLet

7

1 TripLet 2 TripLet 3 TripLet 4 TripLet

8

1 TripLet 2 TripLet 3 TripLet 4 TripLet

in association with

DRUMMER
THE UK'S LOUDEST DRUM MAGAZINE

www.drummermagazine.co.uk