Lesson 13
Sixteenth Note Triplets

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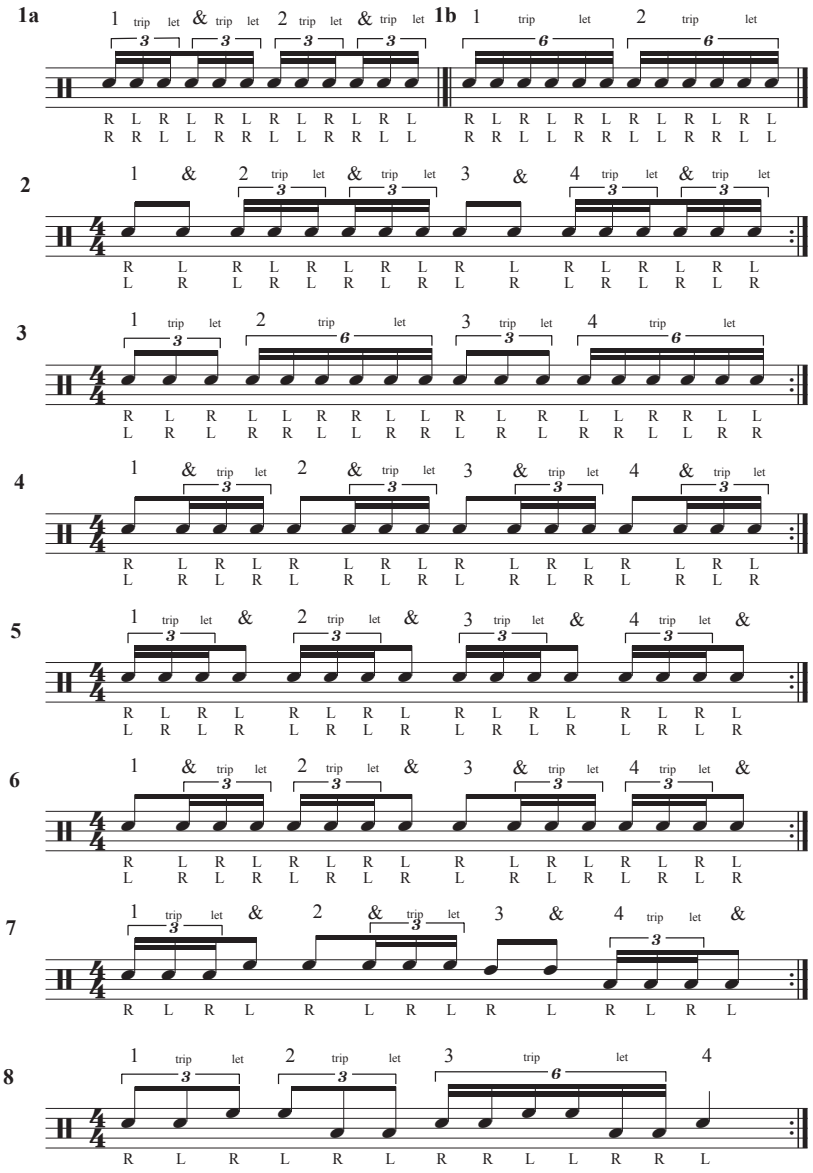
Hello and welcome. This month we are continuing our look at triplets. Having spent some time on 1/4 and 1/8th note triplets its time to tackle 1/16th notes. As usual we will begin by looking at how these are written, counted and played using single and double strokes. We will then move on to playing the triplets alongside other subdivisions, as well as looking at how to break up the triplets up across the bar. Once you have spent time getting your triplets and sticking together you can then move these rhythms around the kit



Ex 1a

Here we see the 1/16th note triplets written as two sets of triplets, the first starting on beat "1" and the second on the "&" of beat "1". This way of writing is generally used when you are playing a straight eighth note groove or part.

Ex 1b

Here we see the 1/16th note triplets written as one set of six beats. This method of writing is generally used when playing a swing, shuffle or "dotted" groove or part, so in this instance we use the 1/8th note triplet to count through the bar. This can be a little more awkward to do because for every one beat you count you actually play two.

Ex 2

In this exercise we are going to practise playing the 1/16th note triplets alongside straight 1/8th notes, so we will use the counting system from Ex 1a. Remember to keep the "1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &" count even and the triplets should fall into place.

Ex 3

Now for plan "b". In this exercise we are going to play the 1/16th note triplets alongside 1/8th note triplets, so we will use the counting system from Ex 1b. Remember to keep the "1 trip let 2 trip let 3 trip let 4 trip let" count even and the 1/16th note triplets should fall evenly into place.

Ex 4

In the next three exercises we are going to use the counting system from Ex 1a and look at some of the most common ways you may find 1/16th note triplets broken up across the bar. We begin with placing an 1/8th note on beat "1" and only playing the second of the set of two triplets starting on the "&".

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Ex 5

This time we are playing the first of the set of two triplets with an 1/8th note on the "&"

Ex 6

Here we have a combination of the last two exercises.

Ex 7

This is an example of how you could move the combination around the kit. By adding a set of 1/8th notes on beat "3" we have broken the triplets up further.

Ex 8

And finally a taste of what's to come next month. In this exercise we refer to Ex 3 - this is an example of how you could place 1/8th and 1/16th note triplets around the kit.

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