

Lesson 14

Straight or Swung

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Hello and welcome. In this month's tutorial we are going to look at ways of combining straight eighth and sixteenth notes with quarter, eighth and sixteenth note triplets. There are many different stickings that we could use to play these rhythms depending on how you want to place them around the kit, so I have decided to use an alternate sticking (r, l, r, l), and write them all on the snare drum. However when you feel confident with these rhythms, do try moving them around the kit and changing some or all of the stickings to suit.

Ex 1

In this first exercise we are using 1/8th notes on beat 1, 1/8th note triplets on beat 2, 1/16th notes on beat 3 and 1/16th note triplets on beat 4. The idea here is to look at the counting system as well as how the subdivisions fit across the bar. Make sure you can count this correctly before you try to play it.

Ex 2

Once we have worked on our full sets of subdivisions and practiced our counting we can now try some variations. In this exercise we have a set of 1/16th notes on beats 1 and 3 (missing out the 'e'), a set of 1/8th note triplets on beat 2, and one set of 1/16th note triplets on beat 4 with an 1/8th note on the '&'.

Ex 3

Another variation. On beats 1 and 3 a set of 1/16th notes (missing out the 'a'), on beat 2 a set of 1/8th note triplets and on beat 4 we have an 1/8th note with one set of 1/16th note triplets starting on the '&'.

Ex 4

Here we have a set of 1/16th notes on beats 1 and 3 (missing out the '&'), on beat 2 we have an 1/8th note with a set of 1/16th note triplets starting on the '&' and on beat 4 there is a set of 1/16th notes with an 1/8th note on the '&'.

Ex 5

After playing a set of 1/8th notes on beat 1 and a set of 1/16th notes on beat 2 we are going to complete the bar with a 1/4 note (crotchet) triplet. I have put an 1/8th note triplet count in so you can see how the 1/4 note triplet cuts across beat 4.

Ex 6

Here we have 1/16th note variations on beats 1 and 2 with the 1/4 note triplet starting on beat 3.

Ex 7

This time we are starting the bar with the 1/4 note triplet which cuts across beat 2. We then have 1/16th note variations on beats 3 and 4.

Ex 8

Starting again with a 1/4 note triplet with 1/16th note variations on beats 3 and 4.

1
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 & 2 trip let 3 e & a 4 trip let & trip let

2
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 & a 2 trip let 3 & a 4 trip let &

3
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 e & 2 trip let 3 e & 4 & trip let

4
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 e a 2 & trip let 3 e a 4 trip let &

5
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 & 2 e & a 3 trip let 4 trip let

6
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 & a 2 e & 3 trip let 4 trip let

7
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 trip let 2 trip let 3 e a 4 e &

8
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 trip let 2 trip let 3 e & 4 & a