

Lesson 16

Accents

Hello and welcome. In this month's tutorial we are going to look at accents. There are two kinds of accents the first and most common of which is written like this (>) and means that you should play the note with more emphasis than you do other notes. The second type is written like this (^) and means the note is to be played as forcefully as possible - this is used more for orchestral percussion. When you play an accented note, try not lift the stick too high or use muscle power to create a louder note as this will disrupt the flow and movement. Instead, use a "snapping of a whip" motion. By using this "snap" of the arms and wrists movement you will find that you have much more control over your accents. The following exercises need to be played slowly at first to give you time to develop this technique.

Ex 1a

We begin by placing an accent on the first beat of a set of sixteenth notes. As we are using alternate sticking (R L R L) all accents fall on the right hand.

Ex 1b

Now let's move the accent to the left hand - this time we are accenting the "e". Remember to take your time to develop the movement and make sure your sixteenth notes stay evenly spaced.

Ex 2a and 2b

In the next two exercises we are going to play both right and left hand accents. When you feel comfortable repeating each exercise individually, try joining them together.

Ex 3a and 3b

Here we have sets of sixteenth notes but missing the "e". In ex 3a we are accenting on the first of each set and in ex 3b we are accenting the "&". Try both stickings.

Ex 4a and 4b

In these exercises we have now changed the rhythm but not the position of the accents. We have sets of sixteenth notes but missing the "a". However the accents are still on the first beat in ex 4a and on the "&" in ex 4b. Again, try both stickings.

Ex 5a, 5b, 6a, and 6b

In the next 4 exercises we are playing eighth note triplets with accents. Go over each exercise individually and then try putting them together in different orders. For example, try playing ex 5a into ex 6a or ex 5a into 6b.

Ex 7a, 7b, 8a and 8b

Finally we have 4 exercises applying accents to sixteenth note triplets. Once again try each exercise individually and then try putting combinations together.

As always there's lots more stuff on the site www.back2thebeat.co.uk and if you have any questions or comments contact me at info@back2thebeat.co.uk

The image contains 16 musical exercises labeled 1a through 8b, arranged in two columns. Each exercise is written on a single staff in 2/4 time. Exercises 1a-4b consist of two measures of sixteenth notes with accents (>) on the first note of each set. Exercises 5a-6b consist of two measures of eighth note triplets with accents (>) on the first note of each triplet. Exercises 7a-8b consist of two measures of sixteenth note triplets with accents (>) on the first note of each triplet. Sticking patterns (R for right hand, L for left hand) are indicated below the notes. Some exercises also include specific note names like 'e' and '&'.