

# Lesson 17

## Accenting the Groove

Printed in Drummer Magazine, January 2008

Hello and welcome once again. In last month's issue we started working on accents (>) i.e. notes that are played with more emphasis than others. We began this study by working on the snare drum and applying accents to sixteenth notes and triplets.

In this month's tutorial we are going to work on our hi-hats and look at ways in which we can use accents to enhance or change the feel of a basic groove. You will notice that I have only written in the bass drum on beats "1" and "3" and the snare on beats "2" and "4" on all of these exercises. The reason for this is so you can concentrate on your hi hat technique before you try putting in ghost notes on the snare or playing more complicated bass drum lines.

### Ex 1

Let's begin with a basic eighth note groove, accenting the hi-hats on beats "1, 2, 3" and "4". This will feel fairly natural and may be something you are already doing without realising it.

### Ex 2

Staying with our eighth note groove we now have the accent on the "&" of every hi-hat beat. This will give the pattern a very different feel.

### Ex 3 - 8

In exercises 3-8 we are going to change the hi-hat pattern but keep the accents in place, either on beats "1", "2", "3" and "4" or on the "&" of every beat.

In exercises 3 and 4 we have sixteenth notes, in exercise 5 and 6 we are missing out the "e" of the sixteenth notes and in exercise 7 and 8 we are missing out the "a" of the sixteenth notes. Note that the hi-hat line in these exercises is always played with one hand, not hand to hand (e.g. RRRR not RLRL).

Once you have spent time on each exercise, try altering the bass drum line or adding some ghost notes on the snare to change or enhance your groove.

For more exercises visit [www.back2thebeat.co.uk](http://www.back2thebeat.co.uk) and if you have any questions or comments contact me at [info@back2thebeat.co.uk](mailto:info@back2thebeat.co.uk) Take care till next month, Steve.

in association with

**DRUMMER**  
THE UK'S LOUDEST DRUM MAGAZINE  
www.drummermagazine.co.uk