

Lesson 19

Bass Drum & Ghosted Snares

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Hello and welcome. Over the last few months we have looked at the use of accents played on the hi-hats. This month we are going to continue our journey by adding some bass drum variations and ghosted snare beats to the 1/16th note and triplet grooves that we studied in issues 51 and 52. The idea behind these exercises is to develop sufficient co-ordination to maintain a strict hi-hat pattern with the correct accents and a solid "2" and "4" on the snare but then having the ability to change the bass drum line or add ghost notes without affecting the hi-hats.

Ex 1

We begin with the hi-hats playing sets of 1/16th notes, missing out the "e" and with an accent on the "&". I have highlighted this in the count to emphasise how the added bass and snare drum beats fit in. In the original grooves (issue 51, ex 6) we had the bass drum on "1" and "3" and snare on "2" and "4". Here I have added another bass drum on the "&" of beat "3" and a snare ghost note on the "e" of beats "1" and "3".

Ex 2

In this exercise we continue to play the same hi-hat pattern and ghost notes but the bass drum is now playing on beat "1", the "&" of beat "2" and on beat "3".

Ex 3

This is another of the hi-hat patterns with accents from issue 51 ex 8. In this pattern the hi-hats are still playing sets of 1/16th notes but are now missing out the "a" with an accent on the "&". As with the previous grooves, we originally had the bass drum only on beats "1" and "3" so now I have added extra beats on the "a" of beats "1" and "3".

Ex 4

In this exercise we continue to play the same hi-hat and bass drum pattern as in ex 3 but we now have ghost notes on the "a" of beats "2" and "4".

Ex 5

Now we are going to take a look at some triplet grooves with accents on the hi-hats, starting by accenting the "let" of every set of triplets. In issue 52 we concentrated on the accents keeping the bass drum on beats "1" and "3" and the snare on beats "2" and "4". In this exercise however I have added another bass drum beat on the "let" of beat "3".

Ex 6

In this exercise we continue to play the accent on the "let" but the extra bass drum beat is now on the "let" of beat "2".

Ex 7

We now going to change the position of the accents. This will alter the feel of the groove without changing the pattern or adding extra beats. The accent is now played on the "trip" of beats "1" and "3" and the "let" of beats "2" and "4" with the bass drum playing the same line as exercise 5.

Ex 8

Here we keep the accents as they are in exercise 7 but we have changed the bass drum line to match exercise 6.

As always there are so many variations you could play by altering the bass drum line or changing the position of an accent. For more examples check the website www.back2thebeat.co.uk and any questions or comments please contact me at info@back2thebeat.co.uk. Till next time, take care - Steve.

For more lessons, videos and information, visit www.back2thebeat.co.uk

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