

Lesson 20

Followed by a Ghost

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Hello and welcome to this month's tutorial. In the last 3 issues we have worked on accents played on the hi-hats. Now we are now going to have a look at playing an accent on the first beat of a double stroke followed by a ghost note and vice versa. This enables you to place a ghost note next to a main beat without interrupting the hi-hat pattern. It's also a great technique to funk up some basic 1/8th note rock patterns! Remember as always to start all exercises at a slow tempo and build your speed as your technique improves.

Ex 1

Let's begin with a couple of exercises to help develop the technique and co-ordination needed before we apply it to any grooves. We'll start by playing 1/4 notes on the hi-hats with a bass drum on beat 1 - this gives us a simple framework to add the double stroke played on the snare on beats "3" and "&". Try this first without any accents or ghost notes to make sure you are OK with the co-ordination. Then try the double stroke played as an accent and ghost note - to do this you should play the first beat from the elbow using the weight of the forearm to create a solid accent. When you have played the first beat, stay close to the head so you can then play a very light beat using the wrist.

Ex 2

Using the same pattern on the hi-hats and bass drum we are now playing the double stroke on the "&" of beat "2" and on beat "3". This time we have the ghost note first with the accent on the second beat of the double stroke. To do this you should start close to the head using a very light tap from the wrist. As you make contact with the head, lift the stick from the elbow (not too high!) and play the second beat using the forearm.

Ex 3

Here we are playing 1/8th notes on the hi-hats so the double strokes have become 1/16th notes. This looks harder on paper but the co-ordination is exactly the same as in exercise 1. The bass drum is now on beats "1" and "3", the accents are on beats "2" and "4" and the ghost notes fall on the "e".

Ex 4

This exercise keeps the 1/8th notes on the hi-hats and bass drum on the "1" and "3". However, this time we play the ghost note before the accent on the "a" of beats "1" and "3". This uses the same technique and co-ordination as exercise 2.

Ex 5

The hi-hats and snare are now playing the same pattern as in exercise 3, but in this exercise we have added extra beats on the bass drum.

Ex 6

The hi-hats and snare are playing the same pattern as in exercise 4, but once again we have added extra beats on the bass drum.

Ex 7

In this exercise we have moved the accent on to the "&" of beat "2", followed by the ghost note on the "a". This produces more of a funky kind of groove. Feel free to play around with different bass drum lines.

Ex 8

Here we have the double stroke starting with the ghost note on the "&" of beat "1" followed by the accent on the "a". Once again this gives us more of a funky feel.

For more examples and exercises visit www.back2thebeat.co.uk any comments or questions you can contact me at info@back2thebeat.co.uk Take care, Steve.

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