

Lesson 22

Split Fills 2

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Hello and welcome. In last month's issue we started to look at ways in which we can split up triplets by using the bass drum to break up the sticking pattern. We are going to continue on this path and take a look at another format that we can use to create better triplet fills. We begin with 1/8th note triplets which will be good for jazz and swing fills and then move on to 1/16th note triplets which we can use in straight 1/8th rock and funk grooves.

Ex 1

We start with a bar of 1/8th note triplets played on the snare drum. The bass drum breaks up the sticking by playing a beat after every set of three 1/8th notes. As awkward as it may feel, it is very important to count the triplets as you play. Once you feel comfortable with this then it's time to add the hi-hat foot on beats 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Ex 2

Using the same sticking and placement of the bass drum, we now move around the kit. In this example we move from the snare to the high tom and finally the floor tom.

Ex 3

In this exercise we start to split up the sets of three (r, l, r) between the snare, hi tom and floor tom. The thing to remember here is that the sticking and placement of the bass drum is identical to the previous exercises. Remember to keep counting and keep the hi-hat on the pulse.

Ex 4

This exercise is very similar to ex 3 - the difference being that the order of drums changes on the second set of 3 beats (r, l, r).

Ex 5

Having gone over these fills using 1/8th note triplets, let's have a look at how they sit across the bar using 1/16th note triplets. Here we have a basic 1/8th note pattern played for a half of the bar with the fill starting on beat 3. This is the same fill as in ex 1 but you are now counting the beats as 1/16th note triplets. That is to say, count "3 Trip Let & Trip Let 4 Trip Let & Trip Let" rather than "1 Trip Let 2 Trip Let 3 Trip Let 4 Trip Let". It is often a good idea to practise counting this before you attempt to play the fill!

Ex 6, 7 and 8

Exercises 6, 7 and 8 are the same as 2, 3 and 4 but played as 1/16th note triplet fills. Remember to start each exercise slowly and build up your speed gradually.

As always there are lots of ways you could play this fill around the kit, so for more ideas check out the site www.back2thebeat.co.uk If you have any questions or comments contact me at info@back2thebeat.co.uk Until next time, take care. Steve