

Lesson 23

Split Fills 3

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Hello and welcome once again. Over the last two months we have looked at ways in which we can split up triplets by using the bass drum to break up the sticking pattern. This month we are going to use the same concept with 1/8th and 1/16th notes.

I have written the first four exercises in 1/8th notes. The idea behind this is that you practise these slowly, making sure that the pattern is even and you are playing the ghost notes where written. I have also placed a hi-hat foot on beats 1 and 3, so that when you play these as 1/16th note fills you will be able to keep the hi-hat foot on the pulse. If you're a left-handed player, feel free to reverse the stickings.

Ex 1

We begin with a bar of 1/8th notes played on the snare drum, with the bass drum breaking up the sticking by playing on beat 3 and the "&" of beat 4. The sticking and the placement of the bass drum beats do not change throughout the rest of the exercises.

Ex 2

Here we begin to move the sticking around the kit, starting with "1 &" played on the snare, the "2 &" on the high tom and the "& 4" played on the floor tom.

Ex 3

Now we are playing all the right hand beats on the floor tom with the left hand playing ghost notes on the snare. It's important to keep the ghost notes as quiet as possible to create a good feel.

Ex 4

In this exercise the right hand moves around the kit from the high tom to the mid tom and then the floor tom, while the left hand continues to play ghost notes on the snare. Now try playing one bar of exercise 3 followed by one bar of exercise 4.

Ex 5

Here we begin to play these exercises as 1/16th note half bar fills. The bar starts with a basic 1/8th note groove for beats "1 & 2 &", with the fill starting on beat 3 and counted "3 e & a 4 e & a" rather than "1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &". Here we are playing around the kit as we did in Ex 2.

Ex 6

This is the same as Ex 3 with the right hand on the floor tom and the left hand playing ghost notes on the snare.

Ex 7

Here we have Ex 4 played as a 1/16th note half bar fill. Remember to keep those ghost notes as quiet as possible.

Ex 8

This is an example of a whole bar fill using exercises 3 and 4 played as 1/16th notes. You could also try other combinations over one bar and add them on to make several bars which could be used for bigger breaks or solos.

As always there are many variations you could play using this method, so check out the site www.back2thebeat.co.uk

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

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The musical notation consists of eight exercises, each on a single staff in 4/4 time. Exercise 1 shows a snare groove with bass drum accents on beats 3 and 4. Exercises 2-4 show various sticking patterns across the kit (snare, high tom, floor tom) with ghost notes on the snare. Exercises 5-8 show these patterns as 1/16th note half bar fills.