

Lesson 24

Split Fills 4

Printed in *Drummer Magazine*, August 2008

Hello and welcome. In this month's issue we are going to look at another way in which can use the bass drum to break up a sticking pattern to create fills around the kit. Note that whilst these exercises look very similar to the ones we tried last month, on closer inspection you will see that the placement of the bass drum has changed - this will give you a totally different sounding fill. I have once again written the first four exercises using 1/8th notes as this makes the fills easier to follow and will give you the chance to practice playing the ghost notes were written. Reverse sticking for left handed players.

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 2 and the "&" of beat 4. Once again I have placed a hi-hat foot on beats 1 and 3 so that when we play the pattern as 1/16th notes we have sufficient co-ordination to keep the left foot on the pulse.

Ex 2

Using the same format as we did last month we now move the sticking around the kit, going from the snare drum to the high tom and finally the floor tom. Remember that the sticking and the placement of the bass drum do not change.

Ex 3

Here we have the right hand on the floor tom with the left hand ghosting all of the snare beats. Keep your ghost notes as quiet as possible as this makes for a much better sounding fill.

Ex 4

While the left hand continues ghosting all the snare beats, the right hand is now moving around the kit, going from the high tom to the mid tom and finally the floor tom.

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 &". We continue playing around the kit as we did in Ex 2.

Ex 6

This is the same as exercise 3 but played as a 1/16th note half bar fill.

Ex 7

Here we have exercise 4 played as a 1/16th note fill around the kit. Remember to keep those ghost notes down to create a good sound.

Ex 8

This is an example of a whole bar fill using exercises 3 and 4 played as 1/16th notes. As I mentioned last month you could try other combinations over one bar and add them together 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 Till next time, take care, Steve.

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

Steve Timms ©2009

This document can be freely distributed providing it remains unchanged

in association with

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

Typeset by Chris Rowe