

The Third Hand

Working Your Bass Drum Into 16th-Note Fills


Click on the  icon next to any exercise to hear the sound!

by Ted Bonar and Ed Breckenfeld


MUSIC KEY


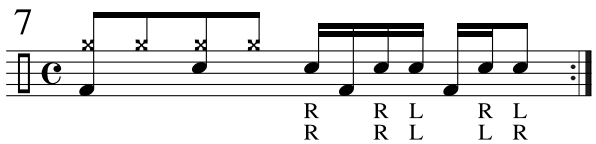
H.H.	X
T.T.	●
S.D.	●
F.T.	●
B.D.	●


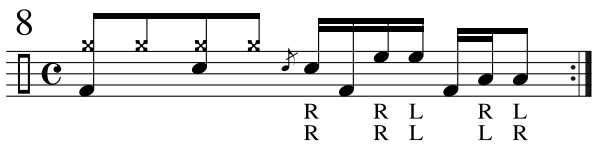
In the last installment of this series (September 2000 *MD*), we mixed the bass drum together with different sticking patterns over triplet rhythms. As a review, the following three exercises cover the basics of the technique. Be sure you have all of the sticking variations mastered before moving forward.


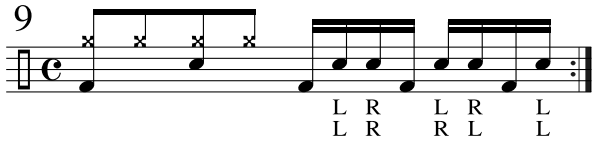
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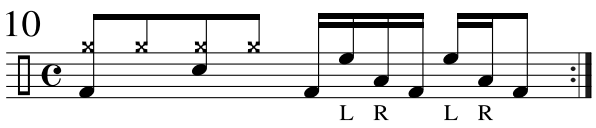
2  

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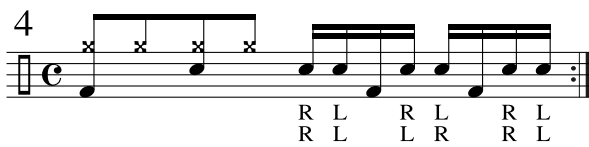
7  


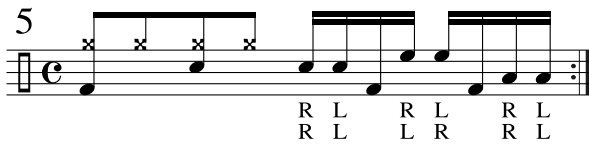
8  



9  

10  



Now that the physical aspects of these patterns have been mastered, it's time to have some fun. Let's take the previous patterns out of the triplet context and apply them to 16th-note fills. We'll start with some short two-beat fills. Be sure to try the sticking variations to find the one that works best for you.


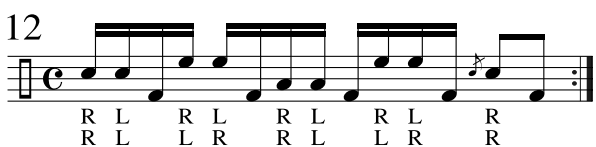
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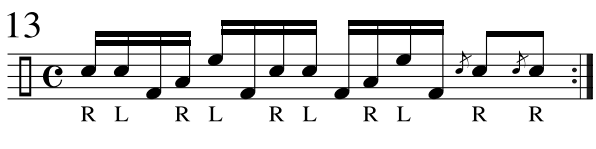
5  



6  

Now let's move on to full-measure, four-beat fills. Note the "triplet" phrasing inside the 16th-note patterns.

11  

12  

13  

14  

15

L R L R L R L R L R
L R R L L R R L L R

16

R L R L L R L R L R L R L
R R L L R R L L R L R L

17

R L R L R L L R R L L R

18

R L L R R L L R L R L R L

Now let's try adding double strokes on the bass drum over triplet ideas. Remember to start out slow and gradually increase the speed. And be sure to maintain that smooth triplet feel.

19

R L R L R L R L
L L L L L L L L

Finally, here are some 16th-note fills using all of your newly developed technique.

20

21

22

23

After developing all of this facility between your hands and feet, you'll have no trouble adding spice to your fills and solos. Go for it!

See the June 2001 Modern Drummer for the complete lesson.