

Floor Tom Beat



An interesting option to spice up your playing is to take the hi-hat part of a beat and play it on the floor tom, instead. This creates a different mood and feel and has a slightly more aggressive and almost “tribal” kind of sound. You will hear this done in lots of popular songs. Often times, it only is played for certain sections of a song.

If your drum kit has two floor toms, it is up to you which one is played where “FT” is listed below. Experiment and see which sound you like best. The floor tom will always be played with the right hand.

| 1 | e | + | a | 2 | e | + | a | 3 | e | + | a | 4 | e | + | a |
|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|
| FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | |
| | | | | SN | | | | | | | | SN | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | K | | | | | | | |



Play through each exercise. Go as slowly as needed to play it correctly each time! Be sure to focus on the correct timing of the different patterns. The floor tom is played with the right hand, while the snare and other toms are hit with the left hand. This will challenge your coordination, but with practice it will get easier.

Exercise 1

| 1 | e | + | a | 2 | e | + | a | 3 | e | + | a | 4 | e | + | a |
|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|
| FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | |
| | | | | SN | | T1 | | | | | | SN | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | K | | | | | | | |

Floor Tom Beat



Exercise 2a

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|
| 1 | e | + | a | 2 | e | + | a | 3 | e | + | a | 4 | e | + | a |
| FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | |
| | | | | SN | | | | | | SN | | T1 | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | K | | | | | | | |

Exercise 2b

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|
| 1 | e | + | a | 2 | e | + | a | 3 | e | + | a | 4 | e | + | a |
| FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | |
| | | | | SN | | | | | | T1 | | SN | | T2 | |
| K | | | | | | | | K | | | | | | | |

Exercise 3

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|
| 1 | e | + | a | 2 | e | + | a | 3 | e | + | a | 4 | e | + | a |
| FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | |
| | | | | SN | | | | | | T1 | | SN | | | |
| K | | | | | | | | K | | | | | | | |

Exercise 4

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|----------|---|----|---|
| 1 | e | + | a | 2 | e | + | a | 3 | e | + | a | 4 | e | + | a |
| FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | | FT | |
| | | | | T1 | | | | | | | | T1 | | T2 | |
| K | | | | | | | | K | | | | | | | |



"Play Along" Songs" - Floor Tom Beat

Listed below are some songs that use a floor tom beat. There are many songs that use this beat, but these are just a few to get you started and gain understanding of the technique!

"Wherever I May Roam" - Metallica

"Enter Sandman" - Metallica

"Uprising" - Muse

"Hot Blooded" - Foreigner

"I Am One" - Smashing Pumpkins

"She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy" - Kenny Chesney

"With Everything" - Hillsong Worship

"Double Vision" - Foreigner

"Seven Nation Army" - White Stripes

"Unstoppable God" - Elevation

Worship

"I Hate Myself For Loving You" - Joan Jett & The Blackhearts

"Overcome" - Elevation Worship