

" 1 + A " - Snare / Pad Exercises



You saw earlier that the four available spaces of sixteenth notes within each beat can be used to create syncopations and patterns. By applying different combinations of played notes and rests, we have a lot of rhythmic options available to create beats, fills and syncopations.

In this lesson we will focus on a single combination. The exercises below are intended to solidify the correct timing of this pattern, and also to expand your drumming vocabulary.



Practice playing the combinations below to become more familiar with them.
Play each exercise for 60 seconds. For best results, play along with a metronome.

Exercise 1

1 + **a**
R R L

2
(rest)

3 + **a**
R R L

4
(rest)

Exercise 2

1 + **a**
R R L

2
(rest)

3 + **a**
R R L

4 + **a**
R R L

Exercise 3

1
R

2 + **a**
R R L

3
R

4 + **a**
R R L



Exercise 4

1 +
R L

2 e +
R L R

3 e +
R L R

4 + a
R R L

Exercise 5

1 + a
R R L

2 +
R L

3 + a
R R L

4
R

Exercise 6

1 e + a
R L R L

2 e + a
R L R L

3 + a
R R L

4
R

Exercise 7

1 e +
R L R

2 +
R L

3 e +
R L R

4 + a
R R L

Exercise 8

1 + a
R R L

2 + a
R R L

3 +
R L

4 + a
R R L

" 1 + A " - Creating Fills



Here are some additional fills to practice focusing on using the sixteenth note "Rhythmic Blocks." Be sure to notice how the same pattern, played on different drums, can be used to make several different fills. These are just a few of the possibilities. Experiment to find your own.

Keep in mind that these patterns are intended to open up your mind and get you started becoming familiar with fills. **The best way to increase your fill vocabulary is by learning fills from recordings!**



Play through each individual fill slowly and carefully. Be sure to focus on the correct timing of the different patterns.



When you feel comfortable with each fill, try playing each one using the '3 +1' Pattern. Count out loud if needed. As always, for best results, practice this along with a metronome.

Exercise 1

1 +
sn sn

2 +
t1 t1

3 + a
t2 t2 t2

4 + a
t3 t3 t3

Exercise 2

1 + a
sn sn sn

2 + a
t1 t1 t1

3 e + a
sn sn sn sn

4 e +
t2 t2 t2

Exercise 3

1 e + a
sn sn sn sn

2 + a
sn t1 t1

3 e +
t2 t2 t2

4 e +
sn sn t3

" 1 + A " - Creating Fills (cont'd)



NOTE: Empty count spaces below are where the normal beat is played until it is time for the fill.

Exercise 4

1

(beat)

2

(beat)

3 + **a**

sn sn sn

4 + **a**

t2 t2 t2

Exercise 5

1

(beat)

2

(beat)

3 + **a**

sn t1 t1

4 + **a**

t2 t3 t3

Exercise 6

1

(beat)

2

(beat)

3 e +

sn t1 t1

4 + **a**

t2 t3 t3

Exercise 7

1

(beat)

2

(beat)

3

(beat)

4 + **a**

sn sn sn

Exercise 8

1

(beat)

2

(beat)

3

(beat)

4 + **a**

sn t2 t2

" 1 + A " - Drum Kit Application



In this lesson we will focus on a single combination and show just a few of the different ways it can be applied to the drum kit. In the exercises below, the pattern is applied on the hi-hat and the kick drum. Experiment to find more!



Practice playing the beats below for 60 seconds each. At first it might be difficult, but these exercises are also intended to stretch your abilities and teach you some new skills. For best results, play along with a metronome.

Exercise 1

1	e	+	a	2	e	+	a	3	e	+	a	4	e	+	a
H		H	H	H		H		H	H	H		H			
				SN								SN			
K								K							

Exercise 2

1	e	+	a	2	e	+	a	3	e	+	a	4	e	+	a
H		H	H	H		H	H	H		H	H	H		H	H
				SN								SN			
K								K							

Exercise 3

1	e	+	a	2	e	+	a	3	e	+	a	4	e	+	a
H		H		H		H		H		H		H			
				SN								SN			
K								K		K	K				