

"Rhythmic Block" Focus - Introduction



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 (creating "Rhythmic Blocks"), we have a lot of options available to create beats, fills and syncopations.

In the next group of lessons, we will take four of the most commonly used combinations of sixteenth notes and show just how many things you can do with each. Learning these patterns and how to apply them will greatly increase your vocabulary and diversity as a drummer.

The gray counts below represent the gaps (rests) that aren't played. (NOTE: I've shown the "1" count below, but the patterns work the same for counts "2, 3 & 4," as well.) **Be sure to use the proper "sticking" shown underneath each pattern indicating which hand should play the note.**

1 e + a
R L R

1 e + a
R R L

1 e + a
R L

1 e + a
R L L

For each of the four combinations, we will work on:

Snare / Pad Exercises - These will help you learn the correct timing of each, as well as developing hand dexterity and daily exercises you can work on. These will also involve using previous notes that you have learned.

Fill Creation - Using the combinations, along with previously learned notes to create fills that can be used to enhance your playing and develop creativity. Some include playing identical patterns on different drums to show the many options that can be unlocked from just one simple pattern.

Drum Kit Application - Learning to apply these patterns to create more diverse and interesting beats on the drum kit. These exercise will focus on the hi-hat, kick drum and snare drum.