



## Let's Get Real

4-measure patterns are very useful for practicing, but as you start learning songs, you'll quickly see that groupings of 8 and even 16 measures are the most common. While there are always exceptions to any guideline, you will find that grouping 8 measures together will guide you to success.

## "7 + 1" Pattern

Figure 18-1

Notice that the "fill zone" has moved to the 8th measure. While you could still put a fill in the 4th measure, you don't have to. If you do add a fill, I would recommend a shorter fill ("4 Family"), or even just a simple crash cymbal at the end of the 4th measure.

## Groups of 16 Measures

In reality, within modern music you will likely hear the verse of a song composed of 16 measures quite often. You will notice that the vocals seem to break at the end of the 8th measure and then start up again over another set of 8 measures. It is also common for the chorus of a song to last 8 or 16 measures.

## Fill Option

With a longer format of 16 measures, you could take the approach that you will put a small fill on measure 8 and then save your big fill for measure 16 as you shift into the next section of the song. Crashing on the 4th and 12th measure would still be fine - you just want to keep it subtle unless the song is very energetic. **The energy and dynamics of the song will always dictate how often and the type of fills that should be used.**

# Lesson 18 - "7 + 1" Pattern



Here are just a few examples of how you can arrange fill families. On the 4th measure, typically a shorter fill or just a crash sounds good. Play through each of these and pick a fill from the correct family. Remember you have 5 choices from each.

## Exercise 18-1

1 2 3 4

2 2 3 4

3 2 3 4

4 2 3 4

crash

5 2 3 4

6 2 3 4

7 2 3 4

8 2 3 4

## Exercise 18-2

1 2 3 4

2 2 3 4

3 2 3 4

4 2 3 4

5 2 3 4

6 2 3 4

7 2 3 4

8 2 3 4

## Exercise 18-3

1 2 3 4

2 2 3 4

3 2 3 4

4 2 3 4

5 2 3 4

6 2 3 4

7 2 3 4

8 2 3 4

# Lesson 18 - "7 + 1" Pattern



Here are some blank boxes for you to experiment adding your own fill families where you want. Experiment and see what sounds good! Just be sure to keep the fills in measure 4 and 8!

1 2 3 4

2 2 3 4

3 2 3 4

4 2 3 4

5 2 3 4

6 2 3 4

7 2 3 4

8 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

2 2 3 4

3 2 3 4

4 2 3 4

5 2 3 4

6 2 3 4

7 2 3 4

8 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

2 2 3 4

3 2 3 4

4 2 3 4

5 2 3 4

6 2 3 4

7 2 3 4

8 2 3 4



15 minutes per day

## Lesson 18 - "Hands On" Exercises

- Try playing Exercises 18-1 thru 18-3 a few times, individually. Choose any of the fills from the correct "families" that are shown in the examples. Now that you have a small collection of fills, it is up to you to choose how and when to use them.
  
- Use the blank "7 + 1" pattern boxes to experiment with. Using measures 4 & 8, try placing different fill families to see how they sound together and how it affects the feel of what you are playing. Don't forget that sometimes a simple crash cymbal can be very effective instead of a fill.

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### Why It Matters

Learning the difference between using short fill instead of a long fill can help you sound more polished and experienced. The more that you experiment and learn how fills are used in popular music, the better your drumming will sound.

Using groups of 8 measures is a very effective tool to help you use fills correctly. Doing so will add to the song and help you sound like a pro! Remember, it is common to see 2 sets of 8 measures combined to create a larger 16 measure section.

**NOTE:** By this point in your progress, **fills should be a normal part of your playing.** When you sit to play, you should be adding some type of fill by at least every 8 measures. If you still don't feel comfortable with fills, spend some time reviewing fills and the "fill families."