



We will soon learn many fills, but for now let's begin our journey with these 2 simple fills. Both of these fills take up one measure (a 4-count) and are a lot of fun to work on.

You will notice that there is an oval for each count of the measure. This is a method I've created to try and show you each part separately with the correct "count." Say the count shown in each oval out loud to help you. Underneath each, you'll see the drum that should be played and the "sticking," indicating which hand should play the notes, right (R) or left (L). Start out by playing these slowly and increase your tempo as you improve.

"8's All Around" Fill

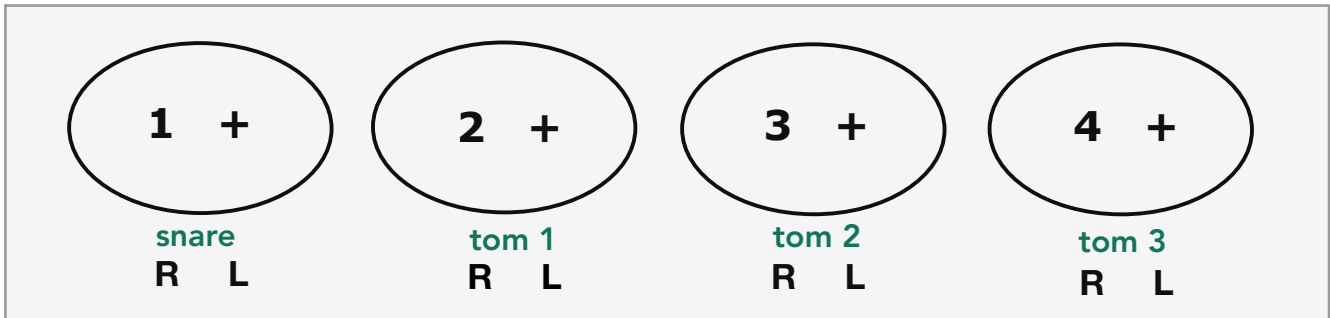


Figure 9-1

The first fill we will learn is one of the most basic fills there is, yet it is widely used and sounds great! It uses repeating eighth notes that travel down the drum kit. It is important to play each stroke evenly, counting out loud as you play, "1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and." Your strokes should hit exactly with your counts.

"16's All Around" Fill

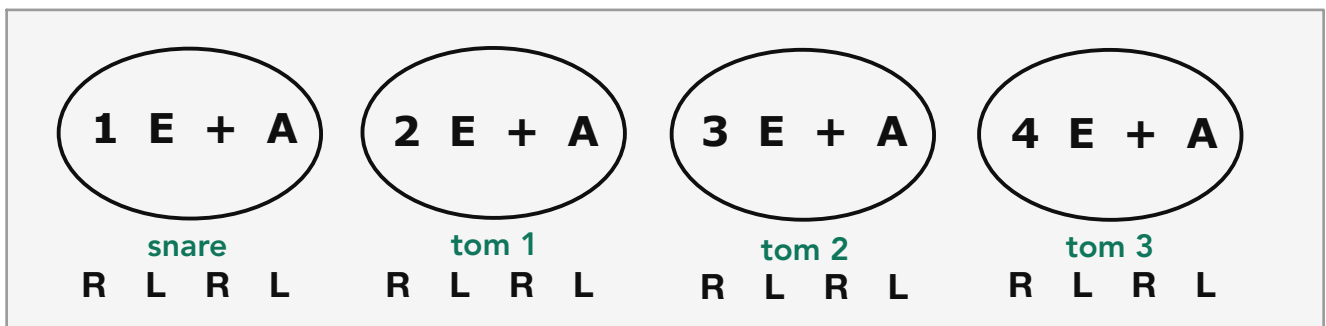


Figure 9-2

The second fill we will learn is very similar to the first, except that it uses sixteenth notes, which will sound closer together than the first fill. Though slightly more challenging, keep at it and it will get easier. Be sure to mind the timing of each note and use clean, even strokes.



15 minutes per day

Lesson 9 - "Hands On" Exercises

- Play each fill slowly to get a feel for them. Count out loud as you play them.
 - When you feel comfortable, use the "1 + 1" pattern (Figure 8-1) with an 8th note beat, trying out the "8's All Around" fill.
 - When you feel comfortable, use the "1 + 1" pattern with an 8th note beat, trying out the "16's All Around" fill.
 - When you feel comfortable, play "1 + 1" pattern continuously, alternating these two fills each time
 - Set a metronome to 70 bpm & play "1 + 1" pattern continuously, alternating these two fills each time
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Why It Matters

Practicing can get very boring without adding in some fills to make things interesting. Our arsenal of fills has begun with these two that are popular and will get you on the way to understanding how fills work and fit into your playing. Knowing how to put fills in the proper place will help you sound more like a pro and impress your audience and fellow musicians.

Common Mistakes To Avoid

Be sure to focus on even, correct spacing the the rhythms of each part of the fill. Be careful not to run all the notes together and get off from the beat.