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A FRESH APPROACH TO THE DRUM SET

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A FRESH APPROACH TO THE **DRUMSET**



A DRUMMER'S GUIDE TO:

Rock Beats and Fills • Hand & Foot Technique • Coordination and Independence • Reading Music •
Understanding Song Construction • R&B, Jazz & Latin Styles and more!

BY
MARK WESSELS
with **STANTON MOORE**

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A FRESH APPROACH **TO THE DRUMSET**

BY MARK WESSELS *with* STANTON MOORE

Introduction

When I set out to write this book, my number one goal was to include EVERYTHING a drummer needs to lay a solid foundation for future success. As any experienced drummer will tell you, becoming a great musician always comes back to the fundamentals – whether you want to play rock, funk, jazz, country, metal or Latin music!

In my own teaching studio, I had 5 or 10 methods that I used with my students, each containing some nugget of content that made it indispensable. But the frustration I had was in the planning and pacing of all that material. Each aspect of what I taught – technique, independence, musicianship, reading, grooves, fills, styles – could easily take over if I wasn't careful. The question really wasn't what my students needed to learn, but how much – and when?

That's why it's taken many years to plan and write this book. The goal since the beginning has been to successfully mix the building blocks of fundamentals with learning to play in all of the essential styles. Also, I wanted to have hip sounding "music-minus drums" tracks on each lesson that immediately applied the fundamentals to having fun playing music.

As you flip through the pages, I hope that you'll see that it's not just for beginners! There's enough material and concepts here to keep you busy well into the advanced stages of your drumming career.

I think you'll find that working through this book will be fun, motivating and rewarding. I wish you the best on your musical journey!

– **MARK WESSELS**

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8th Notes

An EIGHTH NOTE looks like a quarter, but with a FLAG attached to the stem. Groups of 8th notes can be connected together with a BEAM. There are TWO 8th notes in each quarter note.



8th notes "subdivide" the beat into two parts. The first 8th note in each set of two falls on the DOWNBEAT (the numbers), the second 8th falls on the UPBEAT ("ands"). In this exercise, the right hand plays on all the downbeats. The left adds the upbeat 8th note in the 2nd measure.

Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

8th Note Exercises



Work for a consistent, relaxed hi-hat sound and make sure that all of the notes hit precisely together in tempo.

8th Note Rock Beats



Try to get different sounds on each of these grooves – from a soft, tight hi-hat sound with the tip of the stick, to a loud, trashy, open sound with the shaft of the stick. Listen carefully to the groove and strive to put every note "in the pocket."

Extra PRACTICE

To create a different sound to your groove, move the right hand to the ride cymbal and add a left foot hi-hat on beats 2 & 4:

Music Reading: Quarters and 8ths



Play with each hand separately or with alternating strokes. More reading exercises can be found in the APPENDIX on page 85.

1

count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

2

count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

3

count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

4

count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

Extra PRACTICE

Play an 8th note ride in the right while you play the rhythm patterns in the left – then switch. Next, play the rhythm in the bass drum with a left foot hi-hat on each beat. Then try with a 2&4 backbeat on the snare!

"SOLID AS A ROCK"



Listen to how different the groove sounds from letter A to letter B. Songs will often have different sounds when moving from one phrase to the next.



ONE MEASURE REPEAT
This sign tells you to repeat the previous measure.



A

Play 3 times

count: 2 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 3 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

B

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Whether you're a beginner, intermediate or advanced drummer, you'll benefit by the simple step-by-step approach for learning techniques, independence, music reading and grooves. A FRESH APPROACH TO THE DRUMSET will give you a solid foundation to take your drumming to the next level!

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