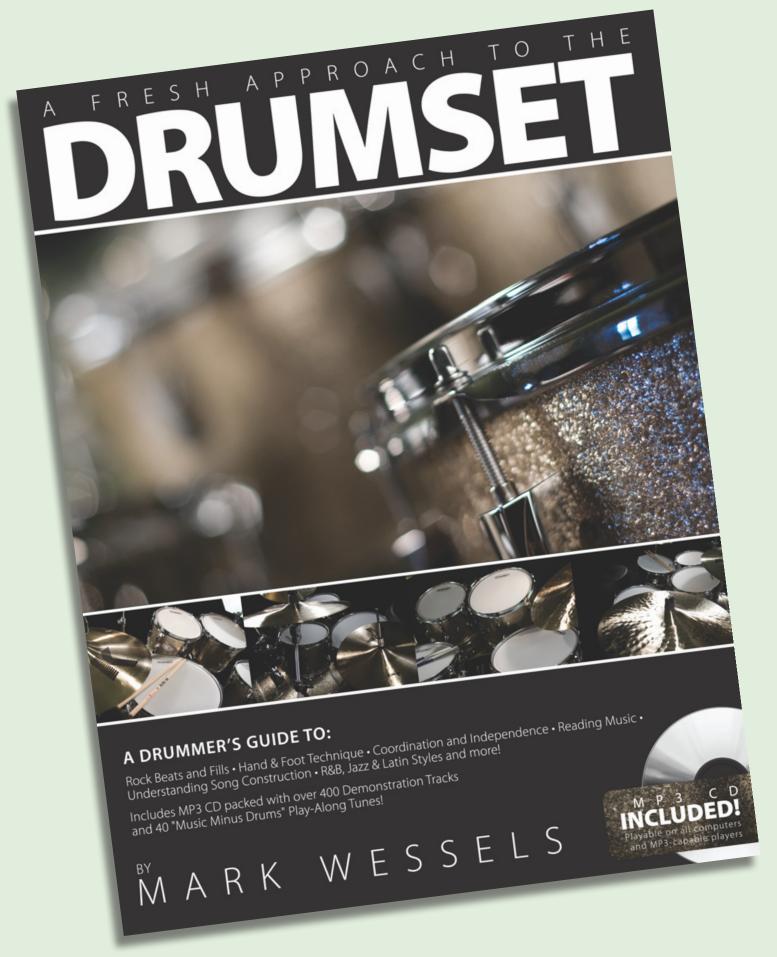
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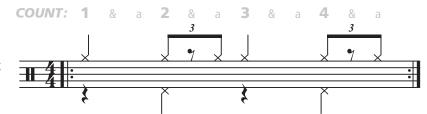
Style Essential: Jazz Swing



Jazz incorporates many different musical styles – from ragtime to bop. The swing style is fundamental to many other jazz styles and incorporates some of the most basic elements: a triplet feel, syncopation and improvisation.

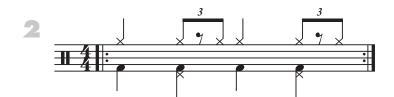
Unlike most rock feels which rely on a heavy bass drum and snare backbeat, jazz is built upon the ride cymbal pattern.

Practice the jazz ride while you count triplets out loud. When you've achieved a consistent feel, add the left foot hi-hat on 2 & 4.





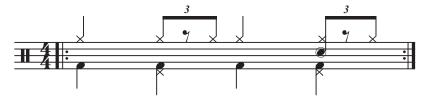
Jazz drummers often incorporate a "heel-toe" rocking motion with the left foot to play repetitive 2 & 4 hi-hat chicks. Another common technique involves bouncing the leg in the heel-up position.

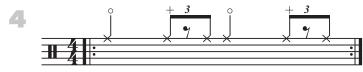


In a jazz style, very soft "feathered" bass drum quarter notes are sometimes used to reinforce the walking bass line. The bass drum should be only loud enough to be "felt, but not heard." Play heel down with an open tone.

Practice the first two swing patterns with play-along track A until you can develop a relaxed sound and feel.

Sometimes jazz drummers add a count 4 cross-stick to reinforce the 2 & 4 feel.

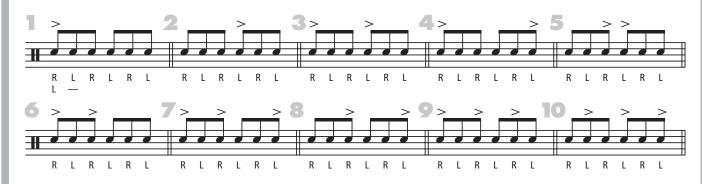




Another common jazz groove uses an open hi-hat sizzle on 1 & 3, closing on 2 & 4. Play along with tracks B & C – 16 measures on the hi-hat groove, then move to the ride.

Technique Focus: Triplet Accent Patterns

Triplet accent patterns are useful for fills in the jazz swing style. Practice each measure separately until you're comfortable, then mix and match to create 4 or 8 count accent patterns.



- PRACTICE
- Add soft "feathered" bass drum quarters and a left foot hi-hat on 2 and 4.
- Play the accents around the drums More accent patterns are located on page 97.

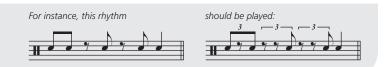
Jazz Fills



A basic fill can be used to connect musical phrases or to lead one phrase into the next. Play your fills with a triplet subdivision, upbeat emphasis and a lighter approach – and keep the 2 & 4 hi-hat going during the fill.



Rhythms in jazz are typically written with "straight" eighth notes for simplicity. In a standard jazz fill, you should SWING the 8th note rhythms.



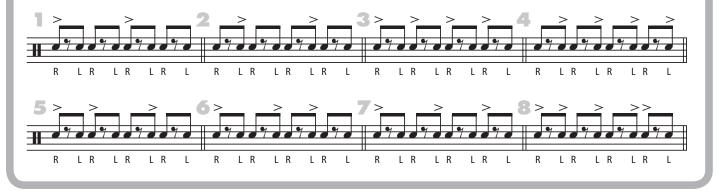
Here are a few sample fills in a jazz style. Start with 3 bars of time, then play the fill in the 4th measure. Come up with your own fills by taking any syncopated 8th note rhythm and move it between the drums and cymbals.





Technique Focus: Swing Accent Patterns

Another helpful technique for coming up with new fill ideas is to use accented swing patterns. Once you've mastered these exercises, try swinging the 8th note accent exercises in the Appendix on page 96.



"SWINGIN' EASY"



This short jazz tune with the hi-hat groove in the intro and ends with a heavy back beat on the final "shout" chorus.

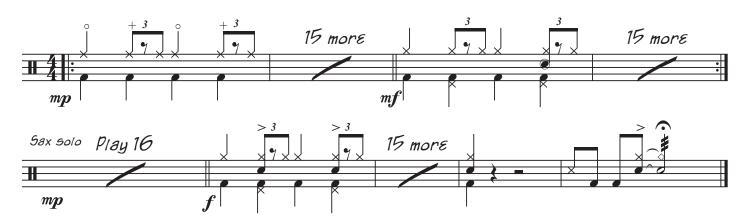


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