



DRUM SCHOOL STUDENT BOOK 1

THE BASICS



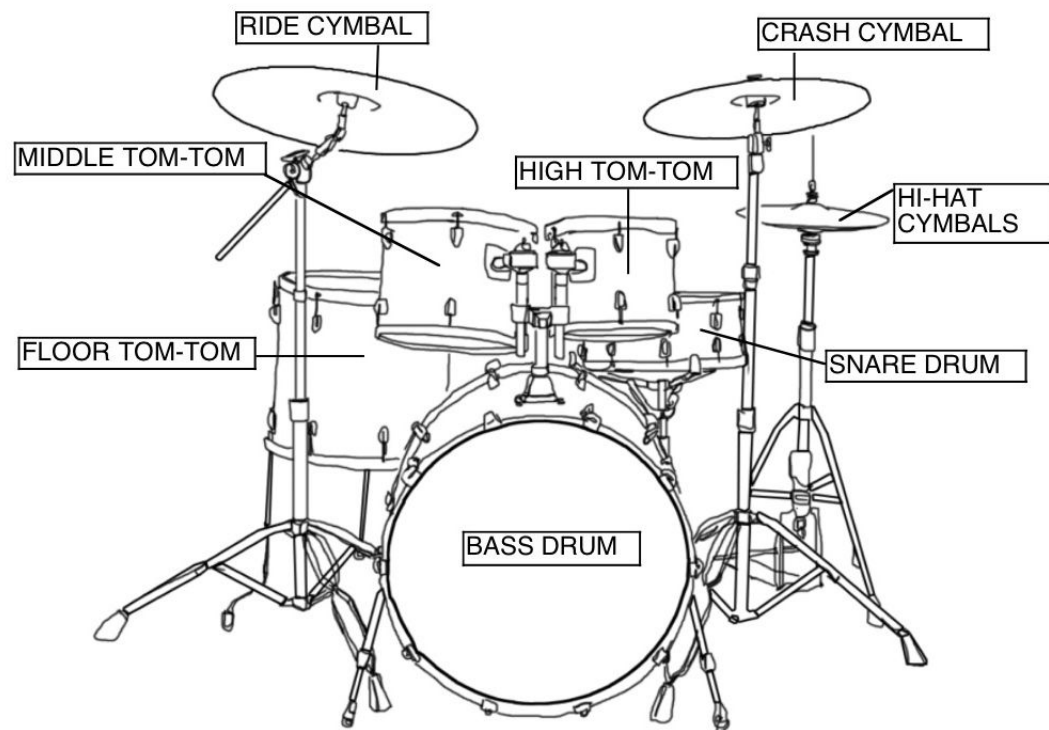


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PARTS OF THE DRUM KIT



SETTING UP YOUR DRUM KIT

Start by adjusting the height of your stool. When sitting on it, you should look like the photo on the right.

When sitting on your stool with your feet on the bass drum and hi-hat pedals, the snare drum should be between your legs. Adjust the height of the snare drum so the top is a little higher than your knees.

Then adjust the toms and cymbals so that everything is within reach.

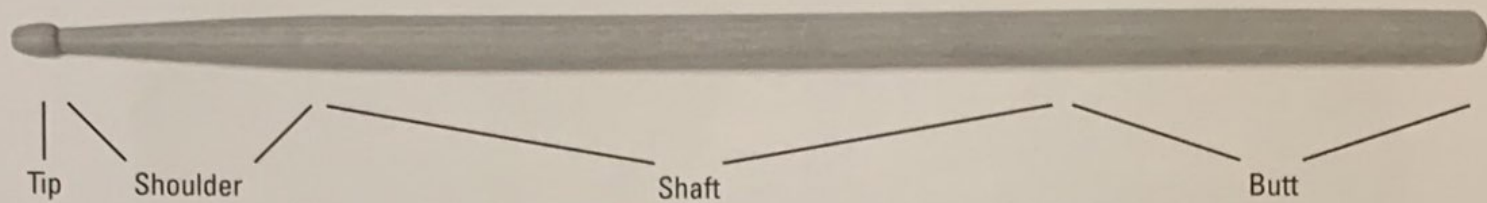


Photos and some text taken from "Drums For Kids" published by Hal Leonard



GRIP - HOW TO HOLD THE STICKS

Drumsticks come in many sizes. Start out by trying a few different sizes to feel what works best for you. Choosing good quality drumsticks is important for even weight and balance. Some good general sizes to start with are 7a, 5a, and 5b.



Let's start by learning to hold the sticks with **matched grip**. Begin by holding one stick in your right hand with your thumb and index finger to create a balance / pivot point like this:



Your other fingers should grip the stick, but wrap around loosely. Don't hold it all the way at the bottom (butt) of the stick, but rather leave a couple of inches like this:

- Try to keep your thumb on the inside of the stick and the back of your hand facing up.
- Try to keep the sticks at a 90° angle and make sure the tips hit the centre of the drum.

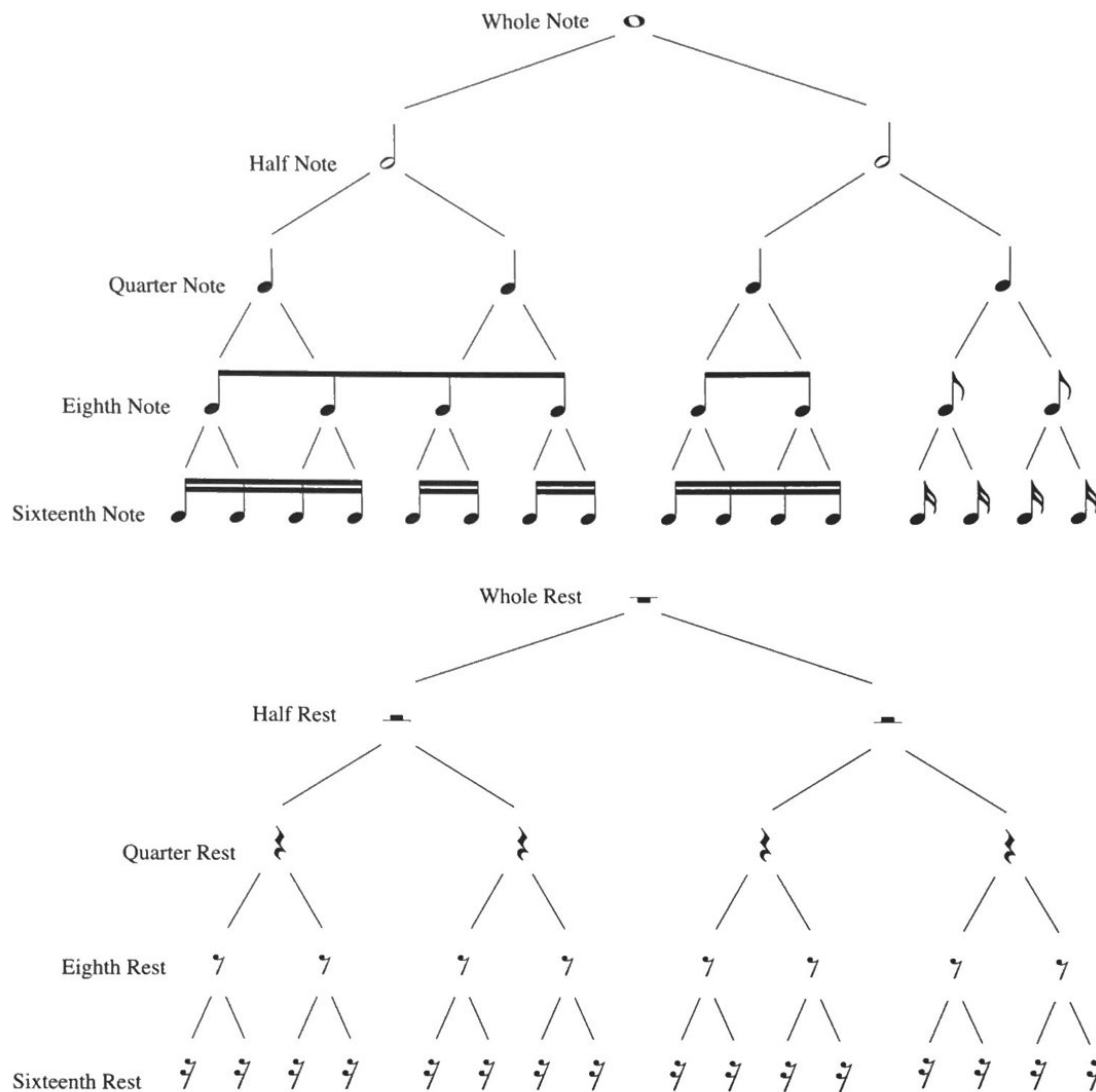


Photos and some text taken from "Drums For Kids" and "Drumset Method 1" published by Hal Leonard

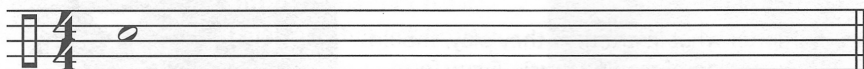


NOTES AND RESTS

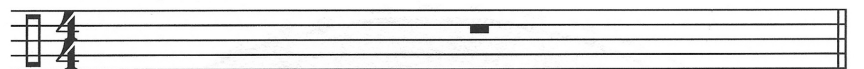
Every note or rest has a rhythmic value. This tells you how long, or for how many **beats**, it will last:



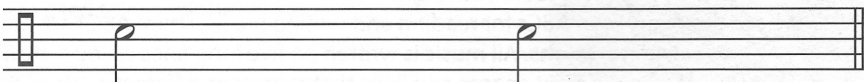
Whole Note



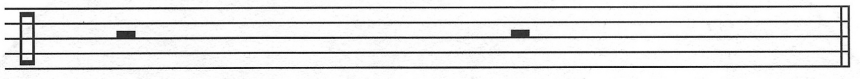
Whole-Note Rest



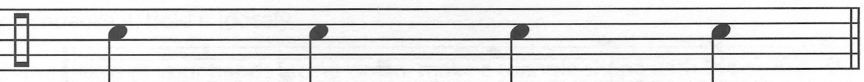
Half Notes



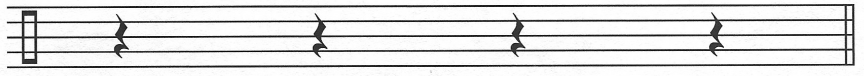
Half-Note Rests



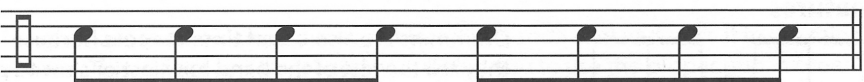
Quarter Notes



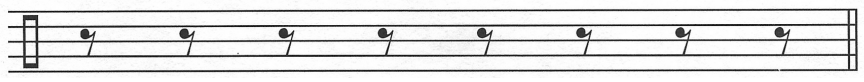
Quarter-Note Rests



8th Notes



8th-Note Rests



16th Notes



16th-Note Rests





SIX GROOVES FOR STARTERS

WITH EIGHTH & QUARTER NOTE HIHAT

♩ = 60 - 80

Play each example over and over again. Your goal is to memorise each groove pattern. Start slow and stay relaxed.



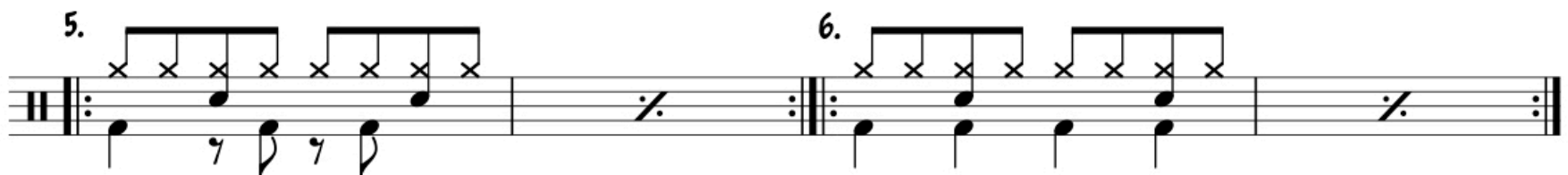
E.g. "Won't Back Down" by Tom Petty

E.g. "Chasing Pavements" by Adele



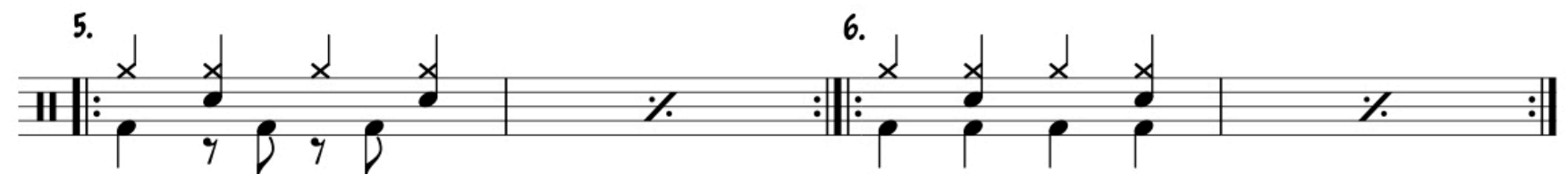
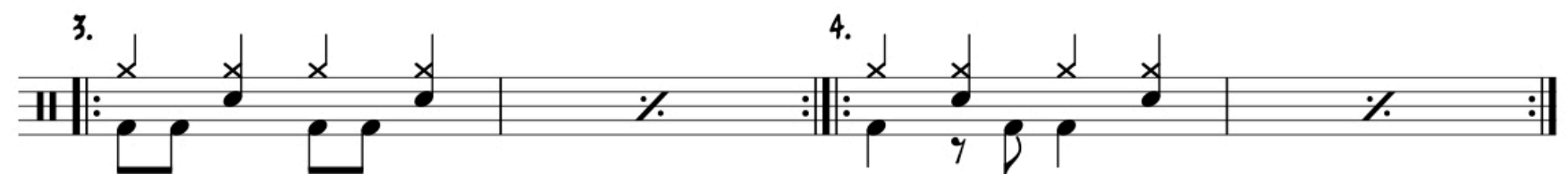
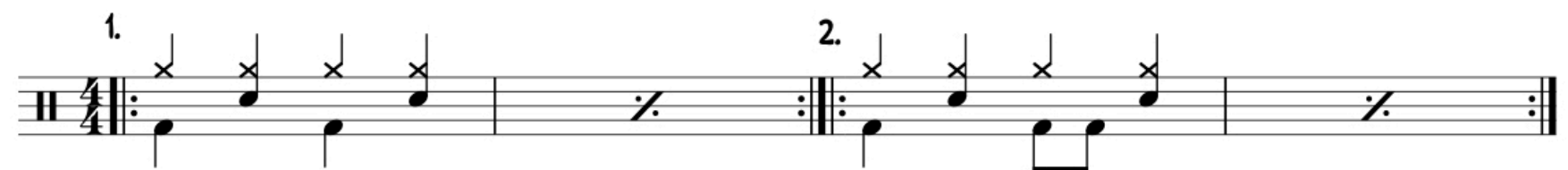
E.g. "Yellow" by Coldplay

E.g. "Every Breath You Take" by The Police



E.g. "Hungry Heart" by Bruce Springsteen

E.g. "Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson/Bruno Mars



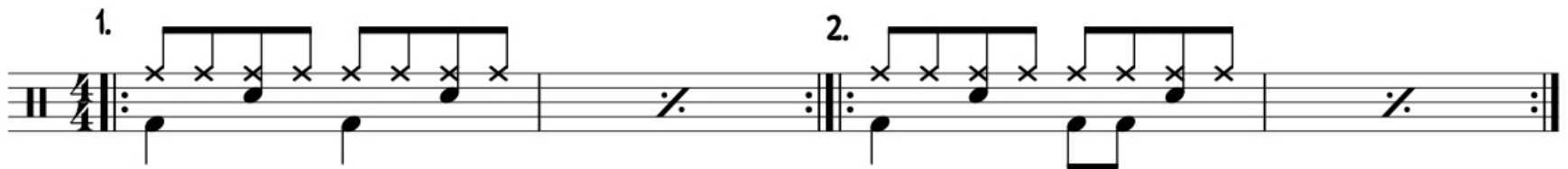


RIGHT HAND ALTERNATIVES

You can give any groove a different sound and feel simply by moving your right hand to another part of the kit. Let's take grooves 1 and 2 from page 6 and change the right hand (hihat) part a little. Notice that the Bass and Snare drum notes don't change.

Once you are comfortable playing each of the examples on this page, try these right hand alternatives with all the other grooves on page 6 (both as 8th note and quarter note patterns).

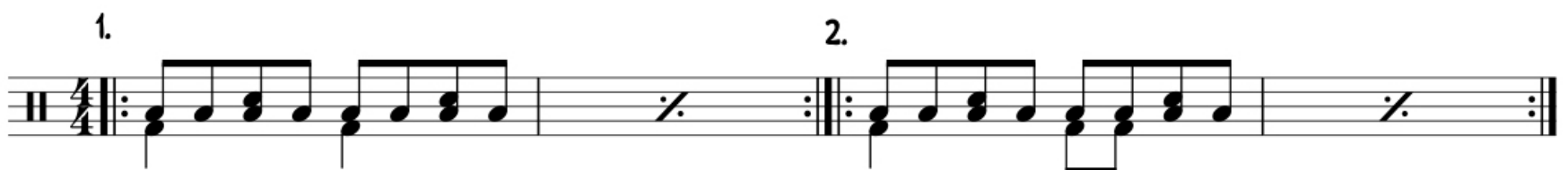
RIDE



SLOSHY/OPEN HIHATS



LOW/FLOOR TOM



CRASH



LOW/FLOOR TOM RIM





BASIC FILLS

1 - BAR • 2 - BEAT • 1 - BEAT

As with the Grooves, play each example many times and try to memorise each fill. Start slowly, relax and let your sticks bounce.

The image displays ten musical staves, each representing a different drum fill pattern. Each staff begins with a 4/4 time signature and a repeat sign. The patterns are composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with 'x' marks indicating specific drum sounds. Each staff concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots. The fills vary in complexity, ranging from simple eighth-note patterns to more intricate sixteenth-note sequences.



HAND EXERCISES

AND WARM-UPS

These are a few basic hand patterns that we use a lot in drumming. Play each line for 1-2 minutes, start slowly (around 60bpm) and make sure your hands and feet line up correctly.



Here are the same 3 patterns but this time as 16th notes. Follow the same instructions as above and stay relaxed as you play.

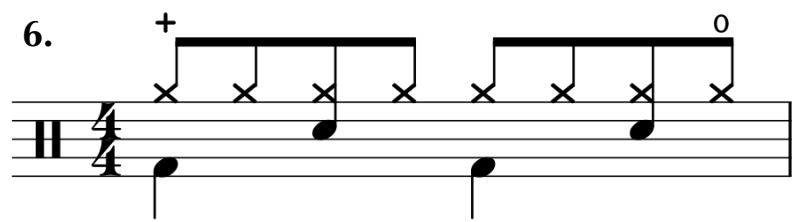
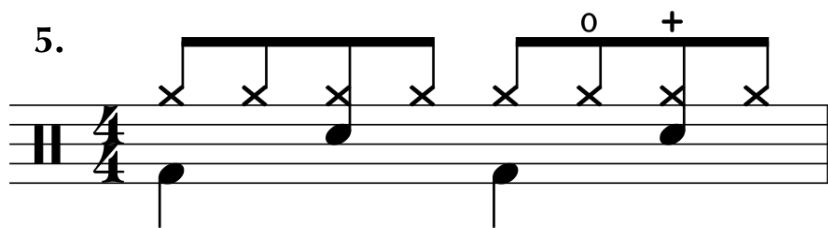
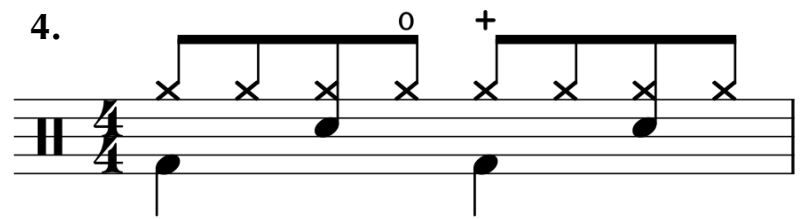
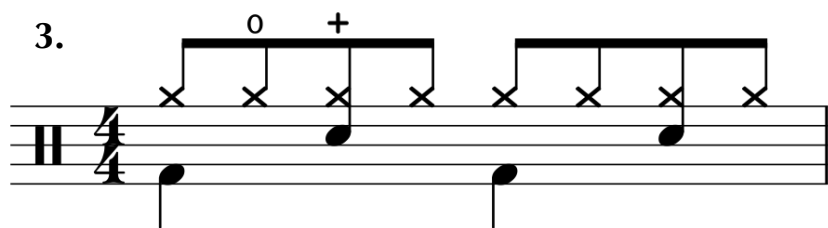
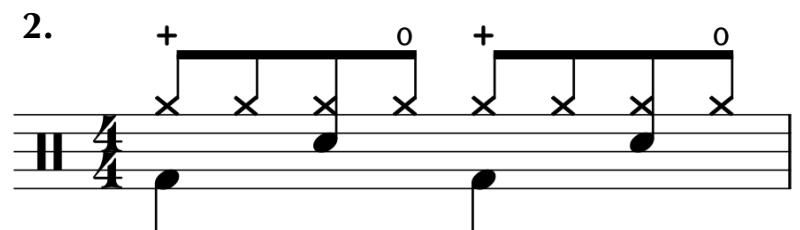
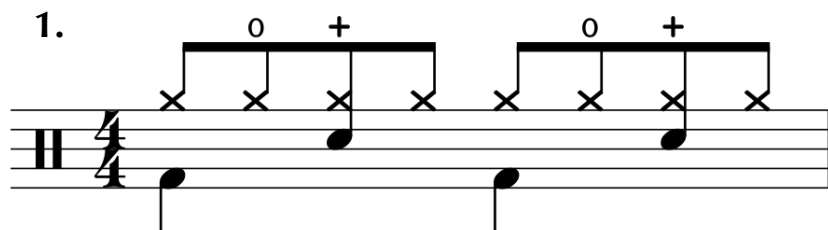




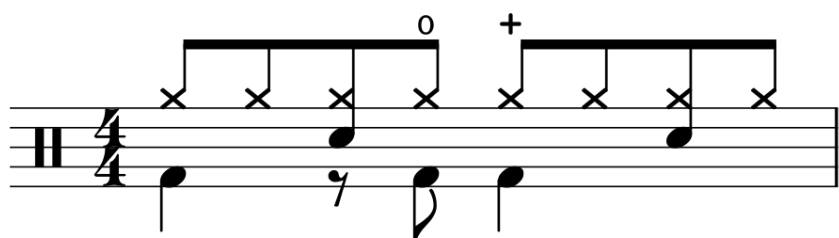
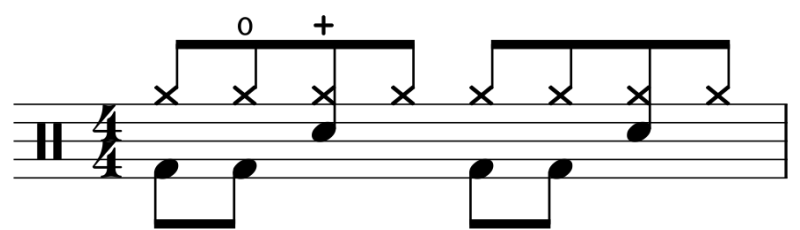
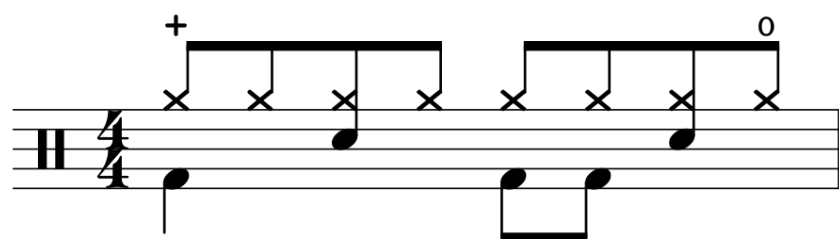
OPEN HIHATS

Now that you are comfortably playing 5 or 6 grooves, it's time to add a new sound that will make these grooves sound more interesting and... well... groovy!

As with all the previous exercises, play each of these examples over and over again until they're really comfortable. Stay relaxed and start off fairly slow, around 60bpm.



Now take these same hihat opening patterns and apply them to the other grooves you have learned. Below are a few ideas to get you started.





16TH NOTE GROOVES

♩ = 60 - 80

Again, play each example over and over trying to memorise each groove pattern. Start slow and stay relaxed.

1. R L R L R L R L...

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

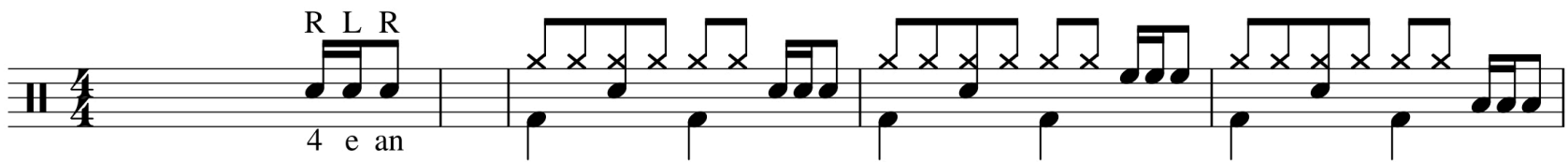
When you can play these 16th note grooves comfortably, try adding a crash every 4 bars.

When you're comfortable adding a crash every 4 bars, try adding a simple fill every 4 bars (see page 8 for fill ideas).

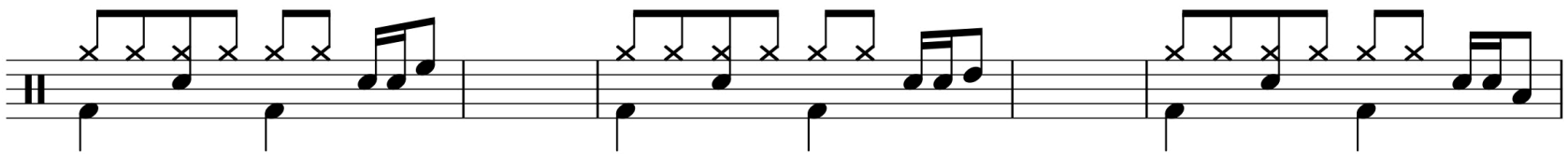


MIXED FILLS 1

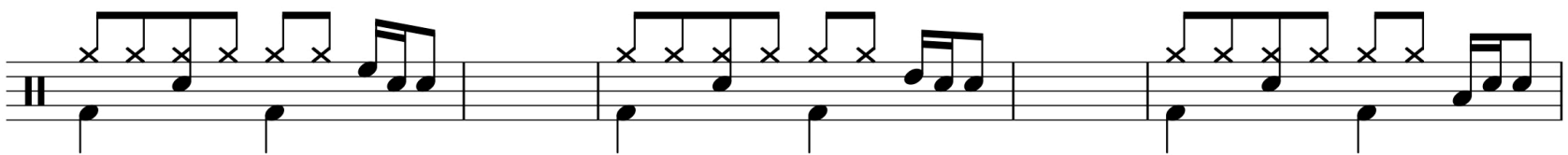
STEP 1: Firstly, get comfortable playing the rhythm on ONE drum at a time, as in the examples below.



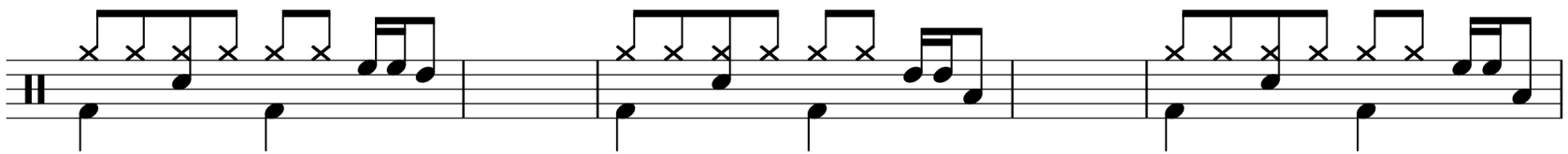
STEP 2: When you're comfortable with Step 1 (i.e. you can play the above examples many times without mistakes) you can try splitting the rhythm between 2 drums, starting on the snare. See the examples below.



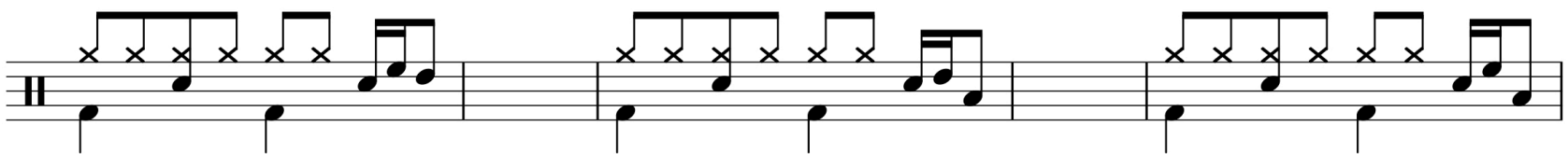
STEP 3: Similar to Step 2 but this time start with a tom and move to the snare. See examples below.



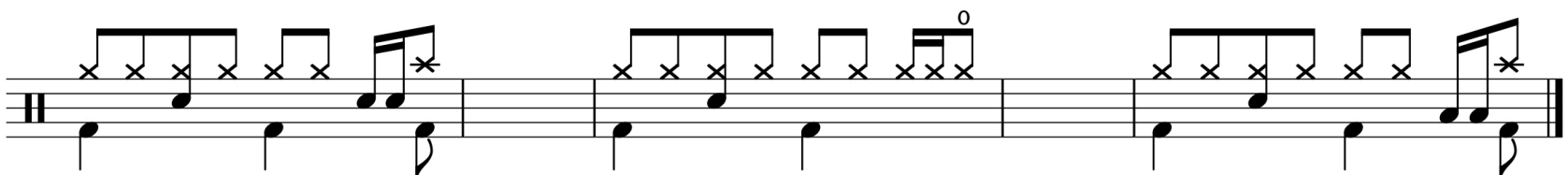
STEP 4: This time don't use the snare at all in your fill. See examples below.



STEP 5: Now try splitting the rhythm between 3 drums. See examples below.



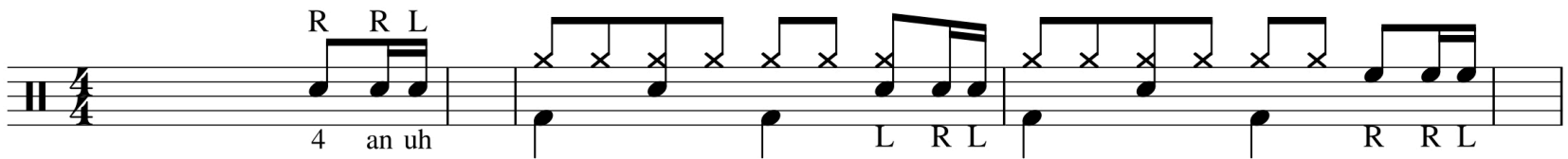
STEP 6: GO CRAZY! See how many other fills you can create - try using the hihat, crashes or ride in your fills. (REMEMBER if you hit a crash, play the Bass Drum too!) See some examples below.





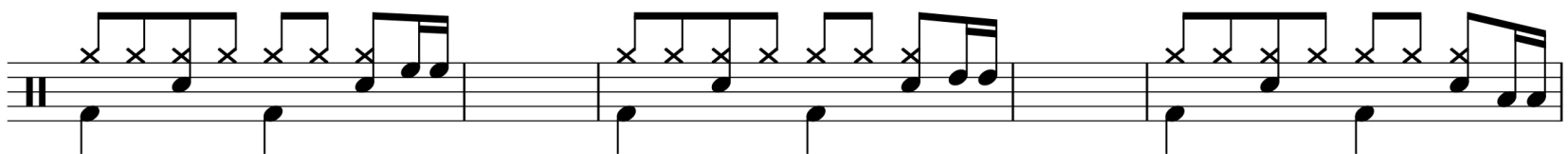
MIXED FILLS 2

NOTE: This rhythm should always be played RRL but, if you play the first note on the snare, you can also play LRL. In this case the right hand plays the hihat on the first note too, as in the first example below and all of STEP 2.

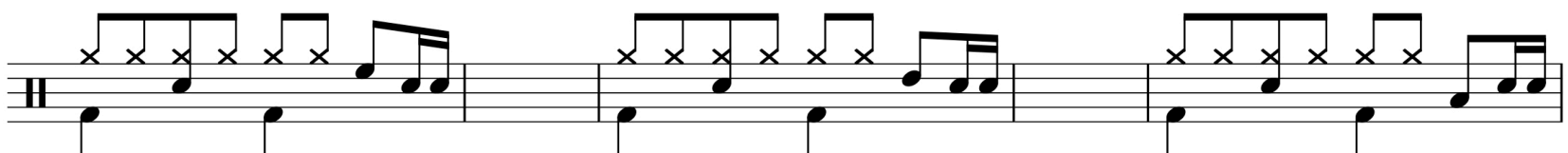


STEP 1: Firstly, get comfortable playing the rhythm on ONE drum at a time, as in the examples above. Use all your toms.

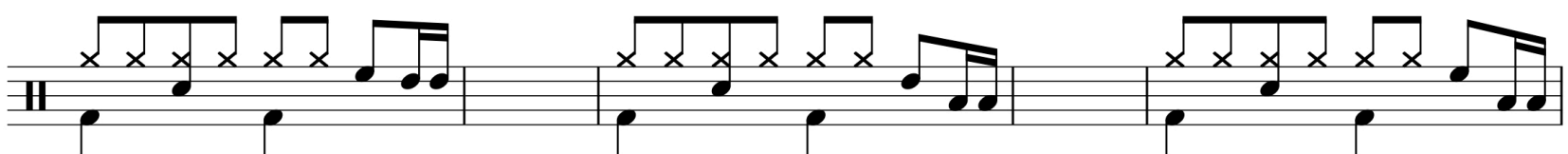
STEP 2: When you're comfortable with Step 1 (i.e. you can play the above examples many times without mistakes) you can try splitting the rhythm between 2 drums, starting on the snare. See the examples below.



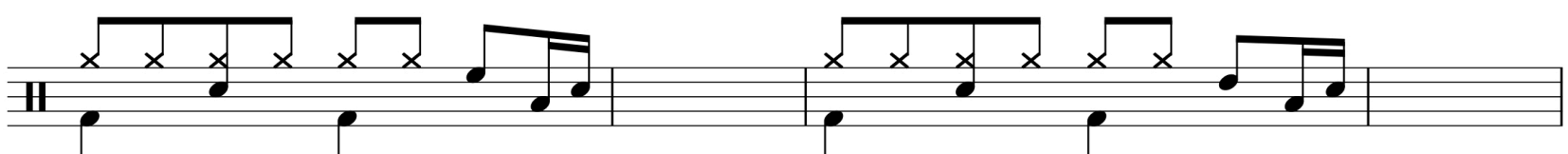
STEP 3: Similar to Step 2 but this time start with a tom and move to the snare. See examples below.



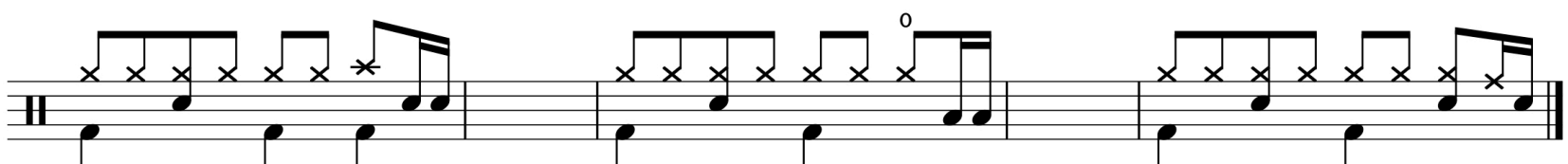
STEP 4: This time don't use the snare at all in your fill. See examples below.



STEP 5: Now try splitting the rhythm between 3 drums. See examples below.



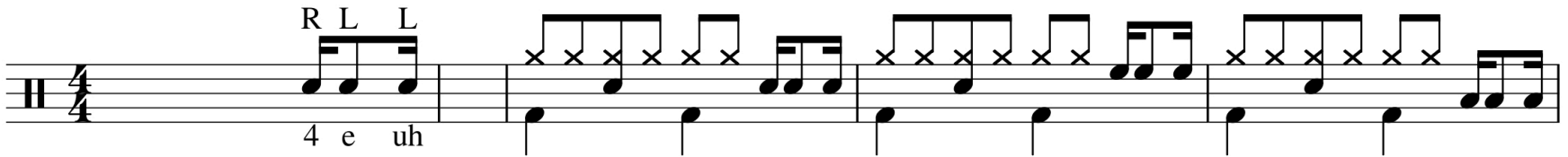
STEP 6: GO CRAZY! See how many other fills you can create - try using the hihat, crashes or ride in your fills. (REMEMBER if you hit a crash, play the Bass Drum too!) See some examples below.



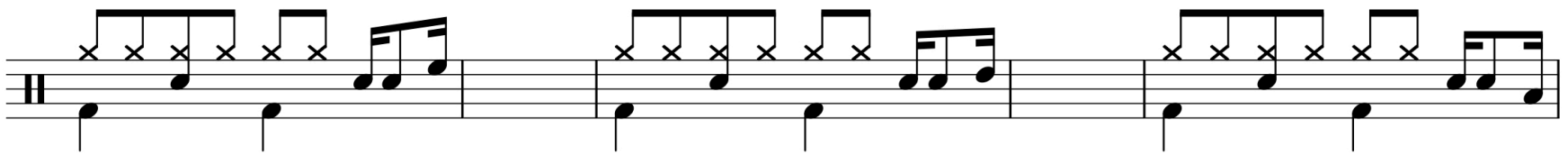


MIXED FILLS 3

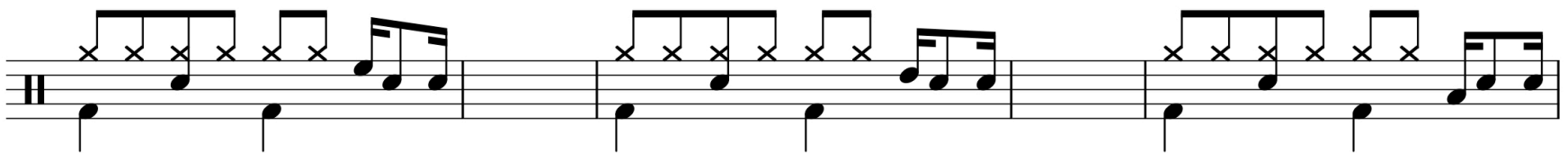
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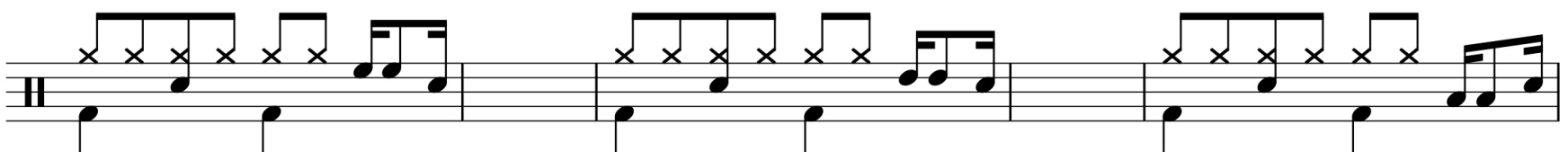
STEP 2: When you're comfortable with Step 1 (i.e. you can play the above examples many times without mistakes) you can try splitting the rhythm between 2 drums, starting on the snare. See the examples below.



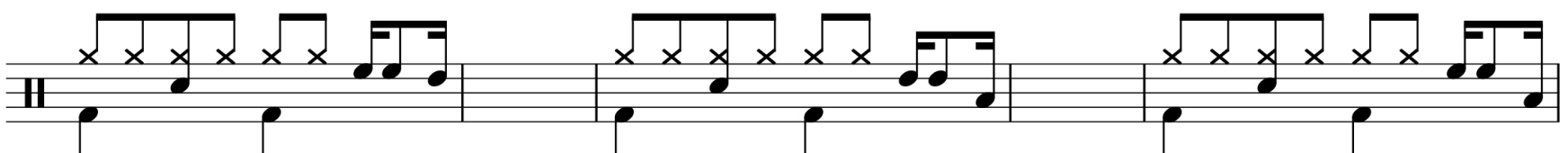
STEP 3: Similar to Step 2 but this time start with a tom and move to the snare. See examples below.



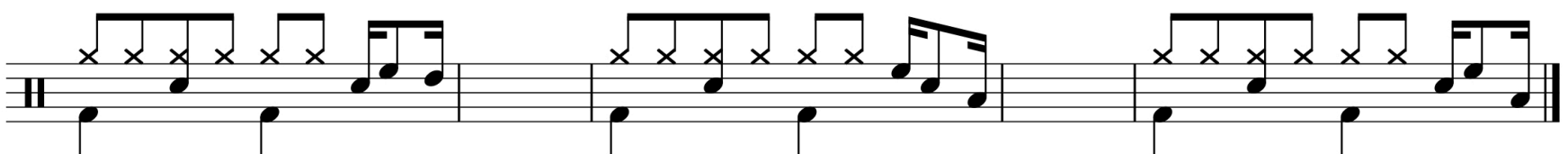
STEP 4: Here's another pattern starting on a tom and moving to the snare. See examples below.



STEP 5: This time don't use the snare at all in your fill. See examples below.



STEP 6: Now try splitting the rhythm between 3 drums. See examples below.



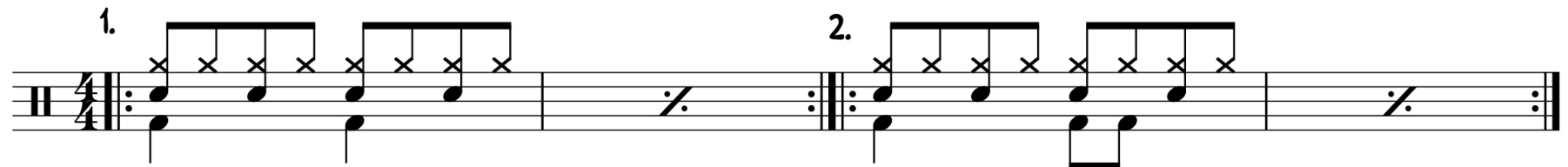
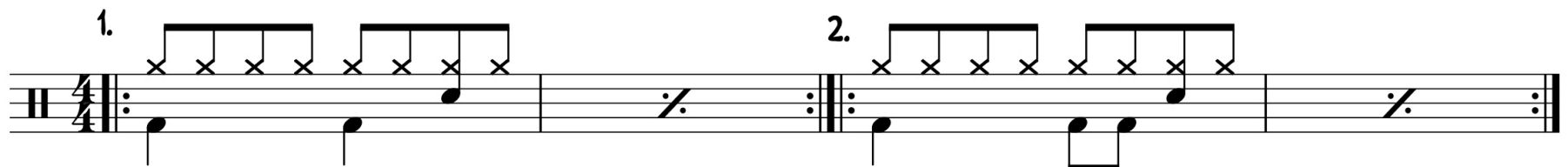
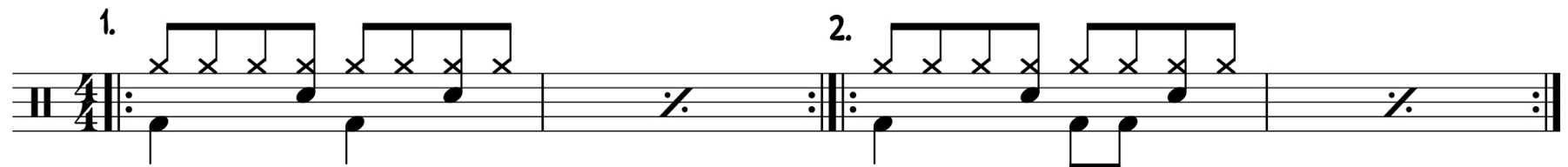
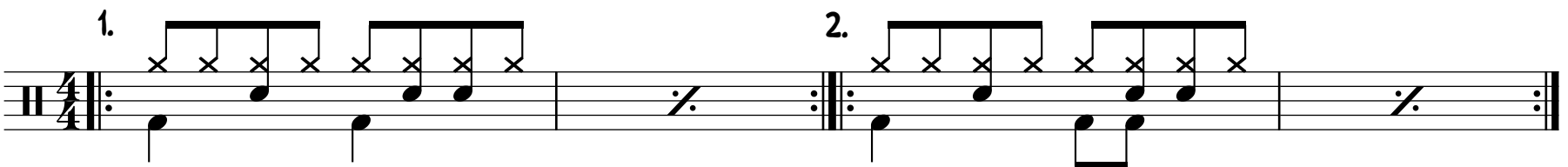
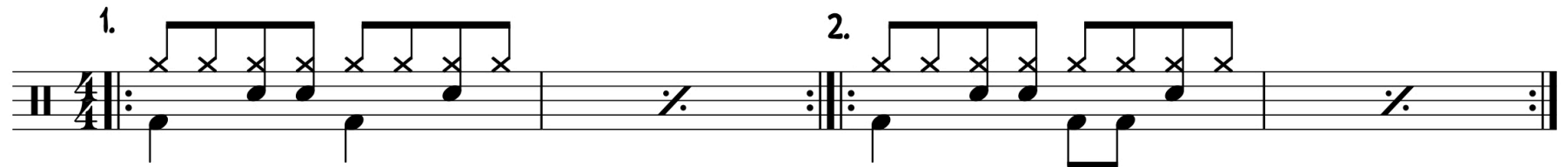
STEP 7: GO CRAZY! See how many other fills you can create - try using the hihat, crashes or ride in your fills. (REMEMBER if you hit a crash, play the Bass Drum too!)



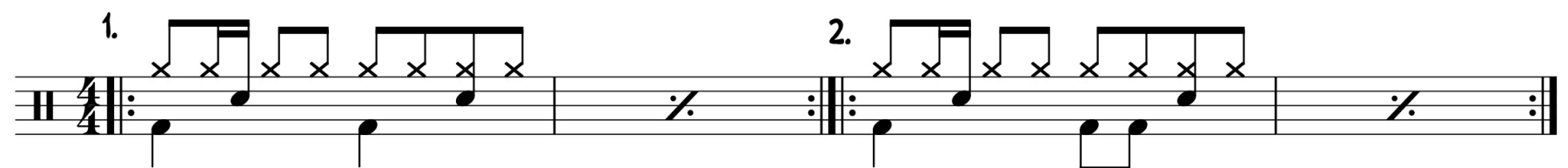
LEFT HAND ALTERNATIVES

The next 2 pages contain some examples of the many ways you can change the sound and feel of any groove by doing something different with your left hand, rather than always sticking to the 2 and 4 backbeat.

We're only going to use grooves 1 and 2 from page 6 (as we did with right hand alternatives) to show each idea but you should take each idea and use them with each groove on page 6 (8th and quarter note), and any other groove you know!



Be careful with this one, it's a little trickier than the others!



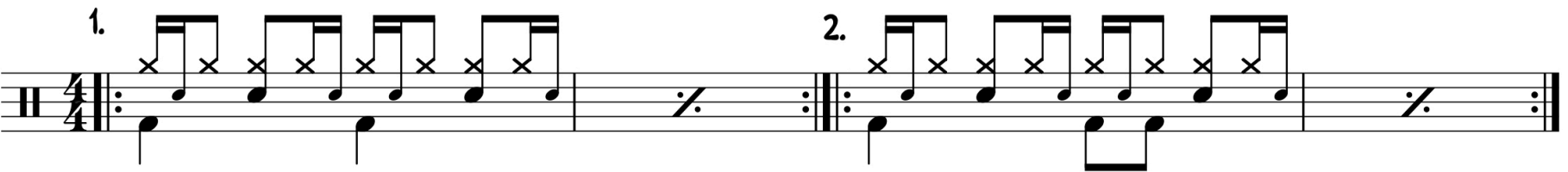
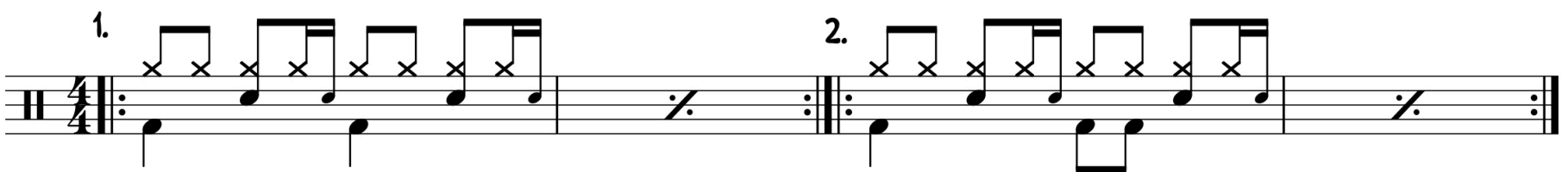
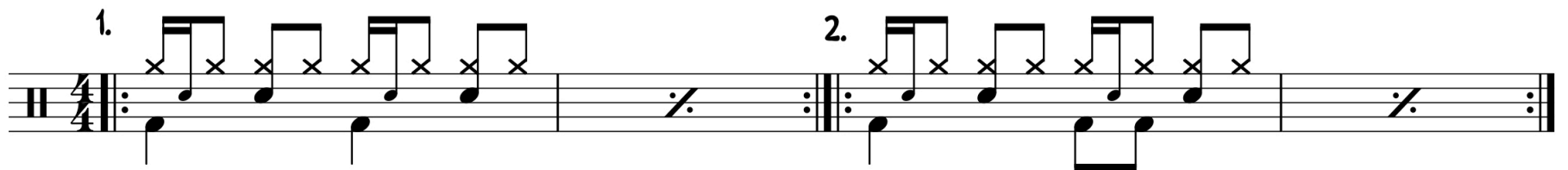


LEFT HAND ALTERNATIVES

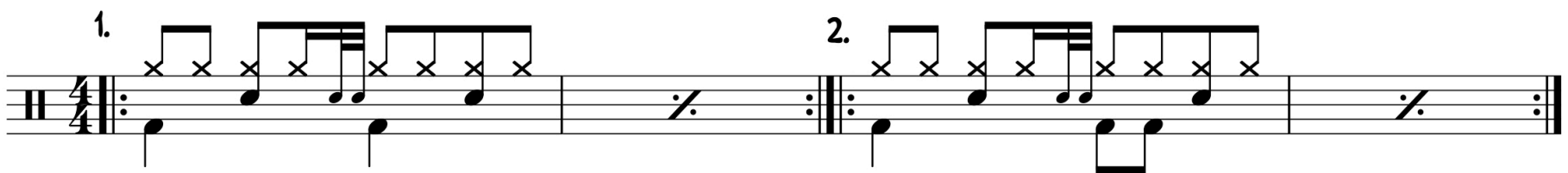
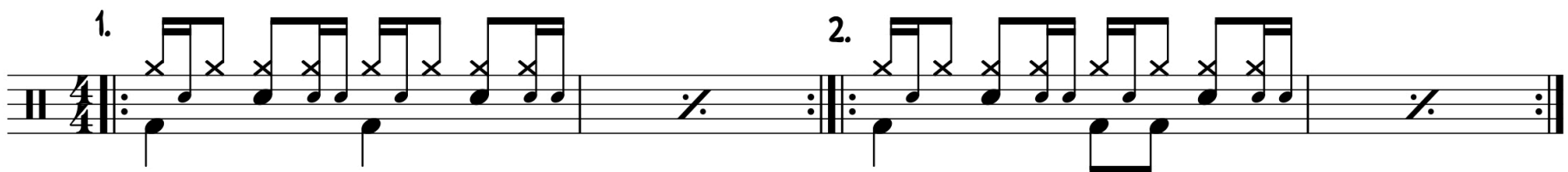
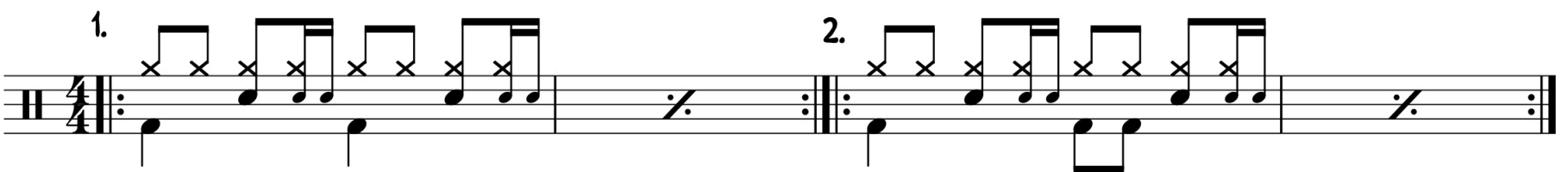
GHOST NOTES

Ghost notes should be played MUCH QUIETER than the main snare drums notes on 2 and 4. Your left hand should only move 2 or 3 inches (about the length of your finger) above the drum to play a ghost note.

This is a really important skill and it will take a while to really master so take your time. Play each example slowly and go for accuracy first and then focus on controlling the volume of your ghost notes.



The following 3 examples are much trickier - be patient and take your time!

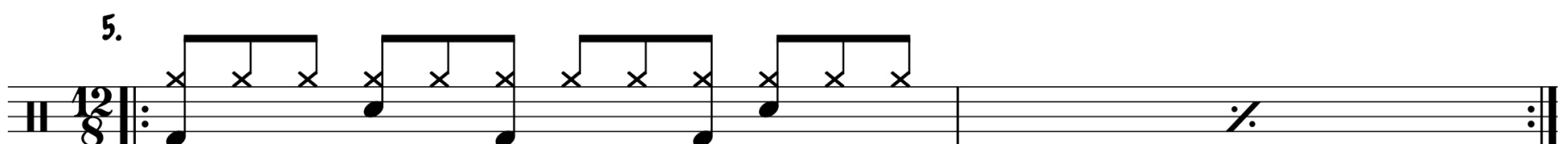
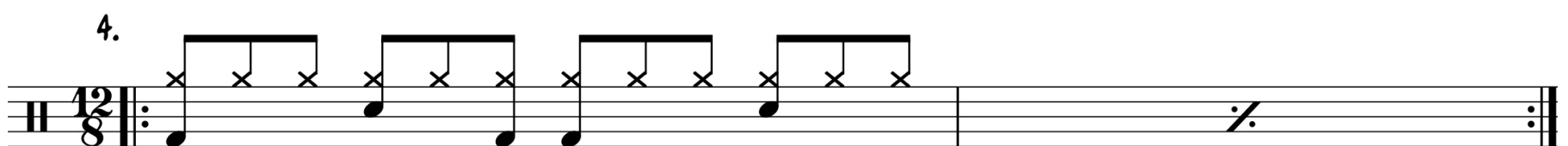
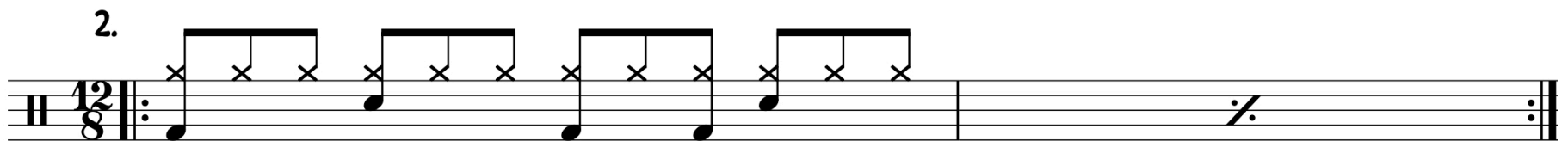
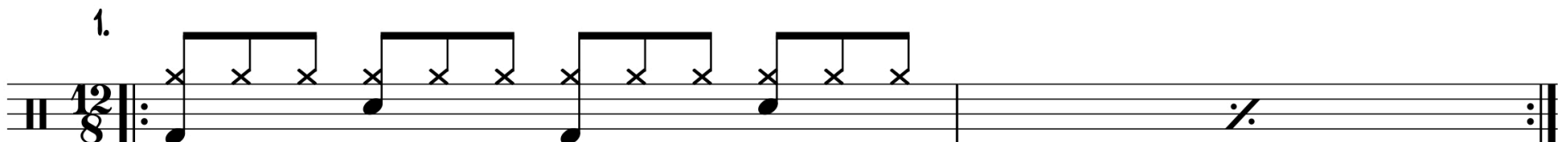




TRIPLET FEEL GROOVES

12/8

Look carefully at the following examples... they are basically the same as all the grooves on page 6 except these have 3 hihats (8th notes) per beat rather than 2. This feel is common in Blues music but is also widely used in Pop, so it's definitely worth spending time trying to master.

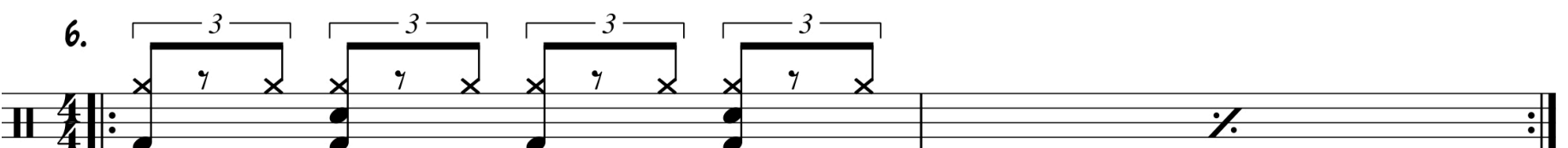
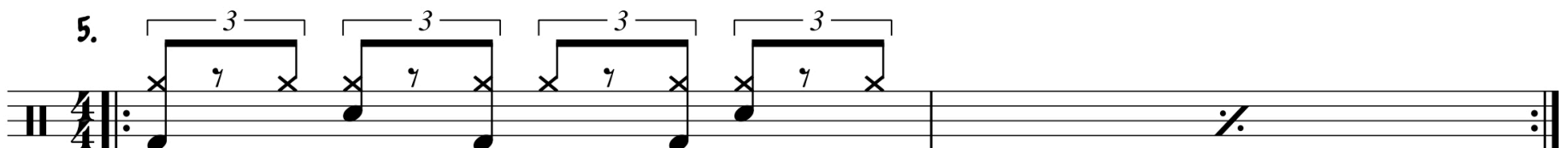
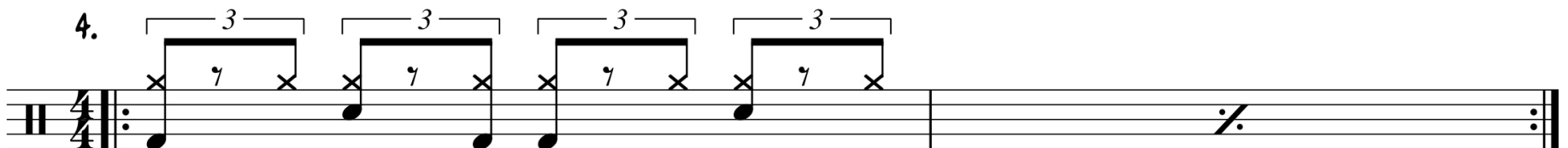
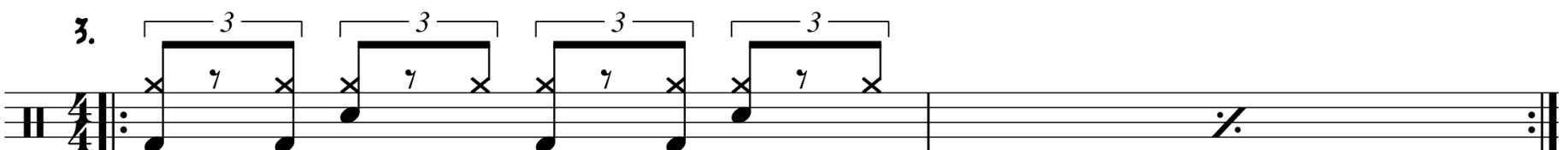
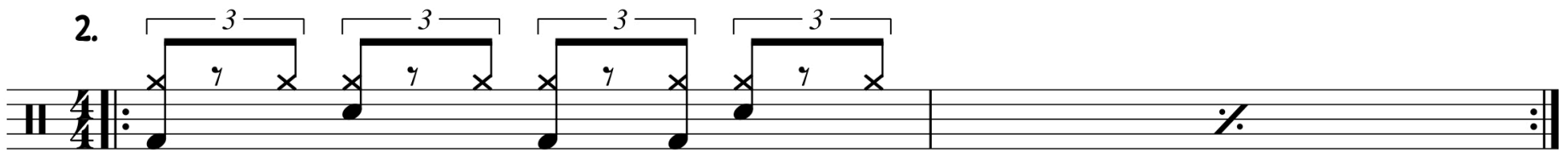
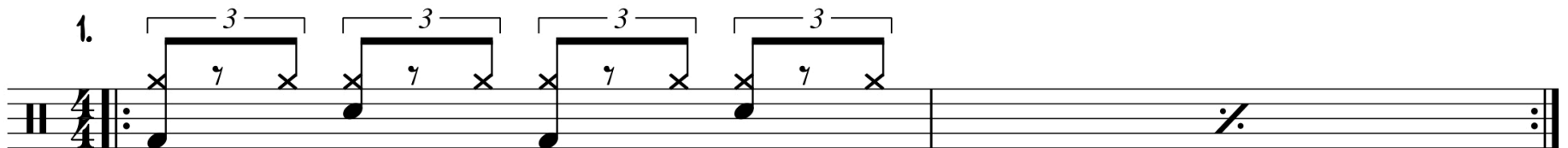




TRIPLET FEEL GROOVES

SHUFFLES

The shuffle feel is created by playing the 1st and 3rd note in each beat of triplets. This gives shuffle grooves an uneven sound which is quite hard to play to begin with. Like the 12/8 grooves, shuffles are common in Blues but also used a lot in Pop, Rock, Country and more. These grooves are quite a challenge but sound great when you get comfortable with them.



PROGRESS CHECKLIST

SKILLS	PROGRESS			
PAGE 6 - SIX FOR STARTERS (Basic 8th note grooves)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Groove 1				60 80
Groove 2				60 80
Groove 3				60 80
Groove 4				60 80
Groove 5				60 80
Groove 6				60 80
Basic Quarter note grooves	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Groove 1				60 80
Groove 2				60 80
Groove 3				60 80
Groove 4				60 80
Groove 5				60 80
Groove 6				60 80
PAGE 7 - RIGHT HAND ALTS (Moving right hand around kit)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Ride				<u>Groove 1</u> 60 80 <u>Groove 2</u> 60 80
Sloshy/Trashy/Open HiHats				<u>Groove 1</u> 60 80 <u>Groove 2</u> 60 80
Low/Floor Tom				<u>Groove 1</u> 60 80 <u>Groove 2</u> 60 80
Crash				<u>Groove 1</u> 60 80 <u>Groove 2</u> 60 80
Low/Floor Tom Rim				<u>Groove 1</u> 60 80 <u>Groove 2</u> 60 80
PAGE 8 - BASIC FILLS (Fills of different lengths)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
One Bar Fill - Line 1				60 80
One Bar Fill - Line 2				60 80
One Bar Fill - Line 3				60 80
Two Beat Fill - Line 4				60 80
Two Beat Fill - Line 5				60 80
Two Beat Fill - Line 5				60 80
One Beat Fills - Line 7				60 80
One Beat Fills - Line 8				60 80

PAGE 9 - HAND EXERCISES (Warm-up drills to improve control)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Singles w/ Bass Drum				<i>No Link</i>
Singles w/ HiHat Foot				<i>No Link</i>
Singles w/ both feet - Snare				8th note 60 85 16th note 60 85
Singles w/ both feet - Drumset				8th note 60 85
Doubles with Bass Drum				<i>No Link</i>
Doubles with HiHat Foot				<i>No Link</i>
Doubles with both feet				8th note 60 85 16th note 60 85
Paradiddles with Bass Drum				<i>No Link</i>
Paradiddles with HiHat Foot				<i>No Link</i>
Paradiddles with both feet				8th note 60 85 16th note 60 85
PAGE 10 - OPEN HIHATS (Opening HiHats at different times)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Ex 1 (& of 1 and 3)				60 80
Ex 2 (& of 2 and 4)				60 80
Ex 3 (& of 1)				60 80
Ex 4 (& of 2)				60 80
Ex 5 (& of 3)				60 80
Ex 6 (& of 4)				60 80
PAGE 11 - 16TH NOTE GROOVES (Both hands play HiHat, Right hand moves to play Snare)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Groove 1				70
Groove 2				70
Groove 3				70
Groove 4				70
Groove 5				70
Groove 6				70
PAGE 12 - MIXED FILLS 1 (Fills around drums using 8th and 16th notes mixed together)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Step 1 (one drum only)				STEPS 1-5
Step 2 (snare to tom)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 3 (tom to snare)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 4 (tom to tom)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 5 (3 drums)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 6 (use cymbals)				<i>No Link</i>
2-beat fills - same step repeated				<i>No Link</i>

2-beat fills - combine 2 steps				<i>No Link</i>
PAGE 13 - MIXED FILLS 2 (Fills around drums using 8th and 16th notes mixed together)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Step 1 (one drum only)				STEPS 1-5
Step 2 (snare to tom)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 3 (tom to snare)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 4 (tom to tom)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 5 (3 drums)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 6 (use cymbals)				<i>No Link</i>
2-beat fills - same step repeated				<i>No Link</i>
2-beat fills - combine 2 steps				<i>No Link</i>
PAGE 14 - MIXED FILLS 3 (Fills around drums using 8th and 16th notes mixed together)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Step 1 (one drum only)				STEPS 1-6
Step 2 (snare to tom)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 3 (tom to snare)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 4 (tom to snare alternative))				<i>As Above</i>
Step 5 (tom to tom)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 6 (3 drums)				<i>As Above</i>
Step 7 (use cymbals)				<i>No Link</i>
2-beat fills - same step repeated				<i>No Link</i>
2-beat fills - combine 2 steps				<i>No Link</i>
Combining Mixed fills 1, 2 & 3				<i>No Link</i>
PAGE 15 - LEFT HAND ALTERNATIVES (Common changes to the normal 2 and 4 snare pattern)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Line 1 (<i>Add notes</i>)				Groove 1 Groove 2
Line 2 (<i>Add notes</i>)				Groove 1 Groove 2
Line 3 (<i>Move notes</i>)				Groove 1 Groove 2
Line 4 (<i>Remove notes</i>)				Groove 1 Groove 2
Line 5 (<i>Add notes</i>)				Groove 1 Groove 2
Line 6 (<i>Move notes</i>)				Groove 1 Groove 2
NOTES:				

PAGE 16 - LEFT HAND ALTERNATIVES - GHOST NOTES (Common ghost note patterns - in addition to 2 and 4 snare)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Line 1 - e of 1, e of 3				Groove 1 Groove 2
Line 2 - uh of 2, uh of 4				Groove 1 Groove 2
Line 3 - combine line 1 and 2				Groove 1 Groove 2
Line 4 - and uh of 2, and uh of 4				Groove 1 Groove 2
Line 5 - left side paradiddle				Groove 1 Groove 2
Line 6 - drag into beat 3				Groove 1 Groove 2
PAGE 17 - TRIPLET FEEL GROOVES - 12/8 (3 8th notes between every drum)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Groove 1				60
Groove 2				60
Groove 3				60
Groove 4				60
Groove 5				60
Groove 6				60
PAGE 18 - TRIPLET FEEL GROOVES - SHUFFLE (3 8th notes between every drum BUT you only play 1st and 3rd)	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Groove 1				60
Groove 2				60
Groove 3				60
Groove 4				60
Groove 5				60
Groove 6				60
BASIC SKILLS NOT INCL. IN WORKBOOK 1	STARTED	PRACTICING	AUTOMATIC	LINKS
Combining grooves to create new 1 bar patterns				SET 1 - 70 SET 2 - 70
Combining grooves to make longer phrases (i.e. 2 bar grooves)				<i>No Link</i>
Upbeat grooves (hats play all &s)				80
Combining open hihats on different beats, e.g. open on 1& AND 2& or open on 3& AND 4&				<i>No Link</i>
Stepped hihats on beats 2 and 4				80
Stepped hihats on Quarter notes				80
8th note accents (with Strokes - UP, DOWN, TAP, FULL)				<i>No Link</i>
16th note accents (with Strokes - UP, DOWN, TAP, FULL)				<i>No Link</i>
8th note triplet accents (with Stroke Motions as above)				<i>No Link</i>
Basic 16th note fills around the drums				60
Basic triplet fills				<i>No Link</i>