

Jazz Triplet Fill Concept #1

(Alternate Triplets played between left hand & bass drum)

John Xepoleas

Welcome to the 1st lesson in my “Jazz Triplet Fill Concept” series. In this lesson, I am going to teach you how to play alternate triplets between your left hand and bass drum while playing a jazz ride pattern with your right hand. Start by playing 8th note triplets on the snare with an alternate sticking. (RLRLRL). Practice with a metronome.

♩ = 90

1.

3 3 3 3

R L R L R L R L

Now, we'll play a measure of the alternate triplets followed by a measure of triplets played between your right hand and bass drum. This will help you hear the pattern we'll be playing.

♩ = 90

2.

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

R L R L R L R L R R R R

Next, we'll play the snare, jazz ride cymbal and hi-hat pattern.

3.

3 3 3 3

♩ = 94

Here, we'll play the bass, jazz ride cymbal and hi-hat pattern.

4.

3 3 3 3

Now we'll play one bar of the bass drum pattern using the snare drum followed by one bar using the bass drum. This is really fun to practice and will help give you a better feel for the bass drum pattern.

♩ = 120

5.

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

x y x y x y x y x y x y

Now we'll put our bass and snare drum parts together to create the fill. Notice that a pick-up note is played with the bass drum to start the fill.

♩ = 100

6.

Pick-up note

Now we'll play the fill from one, then two measures of a swing time feel. Notice that the fill ends on the "one" with a bass drum and ride cymbal.

♩ = 120

7.

"One"

♩ = 144

7B.

Moving Around The Set

Here, we'll start moving the left hand around the set. For the first example, the left hand plays on the snare, moves to the hi-tom, then moves to the low tom. To get a good feel for the hand movement, we'll play this pattern without the bass drum.

♩ = 90

8.

snare hi-tom lo-tom snare hi-tom lo-tom

Now we'll add the bass drum to the above pattern.

♩ = 120

9.

For this version, your left hand moves around the set in the opposite direction.

♩ = 120

10.

snare lo-tom hi-tom snare lo-tom hi-tom

Next, we'll move the hands between two drums to create a polyrhythmic effect. For this first example, the left hand moves between the snare drum and hi tom.

♩ = 90

11.

snare hi-tom snare hi-tom snare hi-tom

Now we'll add the bass drum

♩ = 120

12.

For this example the left hand moves between the hi and low tom.

♩ = 90

13.

hi-tom lo-tom hi-tom lo-tom hi-tom lo-tom

Now we'll add the bass drum

♩ = 120

14.

Once you are comfortable playing the basic pattern and moving your hands around the set, spend a few minutes each day jamming with the different options we just covered in this lesson.

Enjoy,
JohnX