

# Simple, Solid Full Measure Drum Fills

## "Lesson #1"

(SVDL76)

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In this lesson series I am going to teach you how to play a number of simple, solid full measure drum fills that work great in Rock, Funk, R&B, and Contemporary music settings. For the first lesson in this 4-part series we will incorporate a very effective *eighth note build-up fill* as played by Howard Grimes and Al Jackson, Jr. on some of the early Al Green recordings.

Our first group of fills will be played using the *eighth note build-up fill* for the first three counts of the measure followed by four commonly played fill rhythms on the fourth count. This will create four similar yet slightly different fills.

Note: Each of the following fills will be preceded by one bar of a basic rock/pop groove. Start by playing the written groove, then, replace it with different grooves of your own. Also, please keep in mind that in order to play the following fills with the correct feel, it is essential that you use the written stickings.

Notation Key: Ht = Hi tom, Mt = Medium tom, Lt = Low tom

1.

R R R R R R R L R

2.

R R R R R R R L

3.

R R R R R R R L R L

4.

R R R R R R R L

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This group of fills will be played using the *eighth note build-up fill* for the first two counts of the measure followed by a few different commonly played fill rhythms on the third and fourth counts.

5.

R R R R R L R R R L

6.

R R R R R L R R L R

7.

R R R R R L R R L R L

8.

R R R R R R L R L R

9.

R R R R R R L R L R L

10.

R R R R R R L R

**Performance Tip:** I strongly urge that you commit all of these fills to memory so that you can easily use them in a song. You will be glad you did.