

Breaking down a complicated groove

(SVDL10)

John Xepoleas

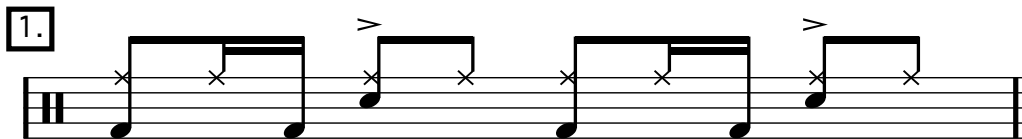
In this lesson I'm going to teach you a simple approach to breaking down a complicated groove. A while back one of my students asked me to teach him the groove for a song he wanted to play. I wrote out the groove, but at first, it was too complicated for him to play. To help him better understand it, I broke the groove down into a series of bit-size pieces. Let's take a look at this process.

Complete Groove

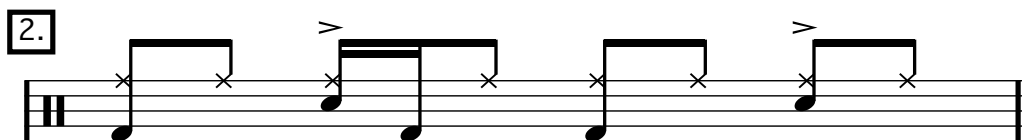
♩ = 92



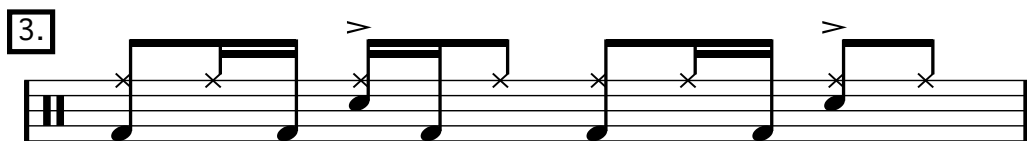
First, let's learn a simplified version of the bass drum pattern. Practice the pattern until it feels good and you are completely comfortable playing it.



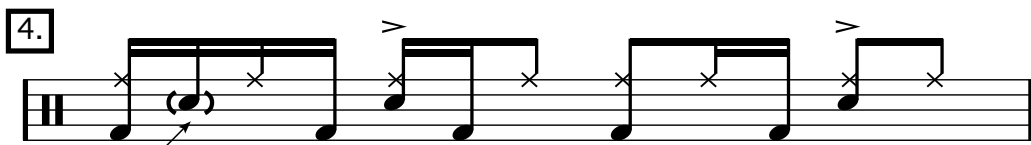
Now we'll simplify the pattern on beats one and three and practice playing the bass drum on the "e" of "2"



When you combine the above two bass drum patterns, you'll have the complete bass drum part for our groove. Once again, practice the bass drum pattern until it feels good you are completely comfortable playing it. This is the foundation for our groove and it needs to be rock solid.



Now you'll start to add the ghost notes to the groove. The first one will be played on the 2nd 16th note or the "e" of one. Play all of the ghost notes (●) as softly as possible at about 1" off of the head.



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Next you'll add the ghost note to the last 16th note or the "uh" of two.

5.

The third ghost note will be played on the last 16th note or the "uh" of four.

6.

The fourth ghost note will be played on the 2nd 16th note or the "e" of beat three.

7.

The last ghost note will be added to the "and" of beat one. Now, you'll be playing two ghost notes in a row. We'll simplify the bass drum part so you can focus on the ghost notes

8.

Now let's add the bass drum back to the last 16th note or "uh" of beat three.

9.

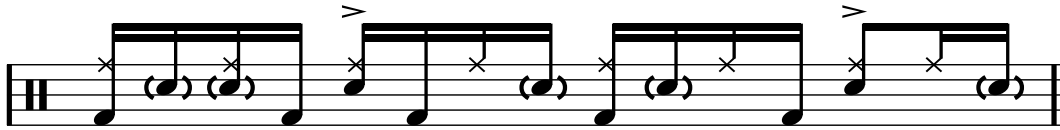
And finally, let's put the bass drum back on the 2nd 16th note or "e" of two.

10.

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At this point, you should be ready to play the complete groove. Remember, when you break down complicated grooves, fills and patterns into bite-size pieces, it makes them a whole lot easier to learn.

Complete Groove



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