

Jazz Comping

Part 5 - "Using rim clicks"

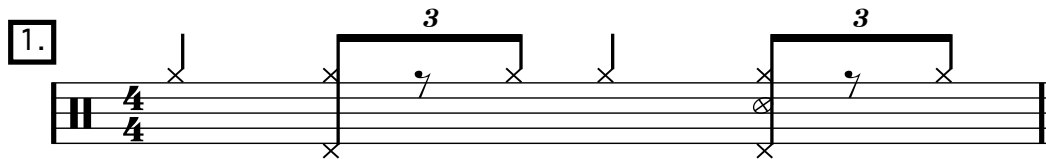
(SVDL2)

John Xepoleas

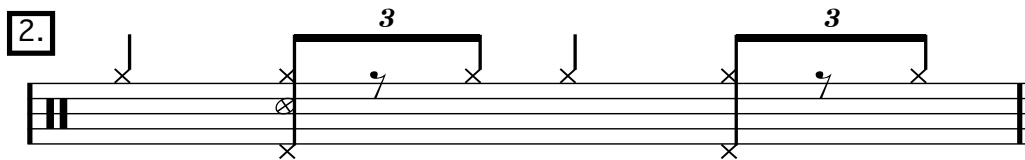
Welcome to part 5 in my Jazz comping lesson series. In this part, I will teach you some common approaches to using rim clicks as simple effective comping patterns.

The first example plays the rim click on the fourth beat of the measure. You can hear this approach used by Jimmy Cobb in the Miles Davis tune, "Freddie The Freeloader", by James Gadson on the Benny Golson tune, "Killer Joe" as well as numerous other straight-ahead swing tunes.

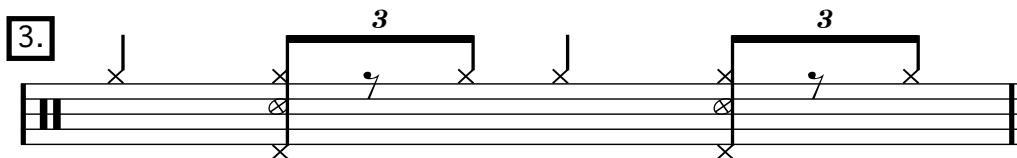
♩ = 116 - 152



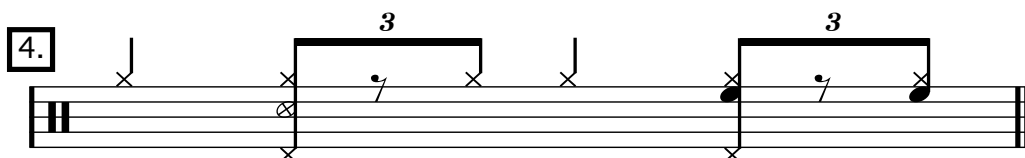
A less common version is to play the click on "2". You'll hear Jimmy Cobb take this approach on the third chorus of the piano solo on "Freddie The Freeloader".



For a more driving feel you can play the clicks on counts 2 and 4. You could hear Buddy Rich use this approach when he really wanted to kick the band.



For this example we'll play the rim click on beat 2 then play the hi tom on the first and third part of the triplet on beat 4. This is sometimes referred to as playing a "Swing Groove with a Latin feel". Give a listen to the Ahmad Jamal tune, "But not for Me" on the "Live from the Pershing" record. Drummer Vernel Fournier lays down a beautiful groove using the pattern.



Jazz Comping Part 5 - Page 2

A nice sounding variation for this would be to play a four bar phrase and on the fourth bar only play a single note with the tom on the fourth beat of the bar.

5.

The notation for exercise 5 consists of two staves. The first staff shows the first two bars: the first bar has a quarter note triplet on the first beat and a quarter note on the second beat; the second bar has a quarter note triplet on the first beat and a quarter note on the second beat. The second staff shows the last two bars: the third bar has a quarter note triplet on the first beat and a quarter note on the second beat; the fourth bar has a single quarter note on the first beat. The phrase ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Now we'll play a quarter note triplet rhythm using the rim click.

6.

The notation for exercise 6 is a single staff showing a four-bar phrase of quarter note triplets. Each bar contains a quarter note triplet on the first beat and a quarter note on the second beat. The phrase ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Here's a typical eight bar phrase using both the rim click on 4 and the quarter notes triplet pattern. You'll play the rim click on "4" for 6 bars, then play the quarter note triplet rhythm for the last two bars to end the phrase.

7.

The notation for exercise 7 consists of two staves. The first staff shows the first two bars with quarter note triplets and quarter notes, followed by a double bar line and the text "PLAY 5 BARS" above a slash. The second staff shows the next six bars, each containing a quarter note triplet on the first beat and a quarter note on the second beat, followed by a final bar with a quarter note triplet on the first beat and a quarter note on the second beat. The phrase ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Now, we'll play the quarter note triplet rhythm between the snare drum rim click and the hi tom.

8.

The notation for exercise 8 consists of two staves. The first staff shows the first two bars with quarter note triplets and quarter notes. The second staff shows the next six bars, each containing a quarter note triplet on the first beat and a quarter note on the second beat, followed by a final bar with a quarter note triplet on the first beat and a quarter note on the second beat. The phrase ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.