

Funk/Rock Fills - Part 1

(SDVL37)

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Welcome to lesson #1 in my “Funk/Rock Fill, lesson series. In this series, I am going to teach you how to play 16th note linear fills that sound great and will help you develop better coordination between your hands and bass drum.

We’ll begin, by playing three notes on the snare followed by one note on the bass drum. Start slowly and be sure to keep an even 16th feel throughout.

♩ = 66, 80 & 96

Basic Fill Pattern

1.

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

Let’s use this pattern as a one bar fill into one bar of a groove. We’ll use an eighth note flam rhythm on the 4th beat of the measure to set-up the groove.

♩ = 96

2.

Set-up

Here’s the same fill played on the last measure of a four bar phrase. It’s always a good idea to practice in “four bar phrases”. We don’t want fill every four bars when we’re playing a song, but we do want to have a good feel for “four bar phrases”.

3.

/ / / /

Now, we’ll move our hands around the kit. Start on the snare drum, then, move to the hi-tom, medium tom and lo-tom.

♩ = 80 & 96

4.

snare hi-tom med-tom lo-tom

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

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Here are a couple versions of the fill played into one bar of a groove. Try these, then develop some of your own.

♩ = 96

5.

lo-tom
r-L

6.

Next, we'll accent the first note of each 16th note grouping. To start, the right hand will accent the snare drum, hi-tom, medium tom, then, lo-tom.

♩ = 80 & 96

7.

snare hi-tom med-tom lo-tom
R L R R L R R L R R L R

Let's use this concept to create a fill and play it into a groove. Make note of the set-up rhythm on the 4th beat of the fill measure. It plays on the 1st, 2nd and 4th 16th notes.

♩ = 96

8.

snare hi-tom lo-tom
4 e uh

The next three version of the fill create a polyrhythmic effect by implying a 3/4 time signature for the first three beats of the measure. The 4th beat serves as a set-up back into the groove.

9.

.....Implied 3/4 time signature..... set-up
R L R R L R R R L

10.Implied 3/4 time signature..... set-up

R L R r-L R L R r-L R R L

11.Implied 3/4 time signature..... set-up

R L R R L R R L R L

Here's a version of the fill that uses a flam on the second beat of the bar to create a "start/stop effect". I'll play this fill at the end of a four bar phrase.

♩ = 100

12.

R L R R L R

Now, we'll take a look at a couple of "half measure fills". They will start on the 3rd beat of the bar. Practice these, then, develop some of your own.

13.

R L R

14.

R L R