

Funk/Rock Fills - Part 2

(SDVL38)

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Welcome to lesson #2 in my “Funk Fill” lesson series. In this lesson, our fill pattern will be played using two 16th notes with the hands followed by two with the bass drum. We’ll use a RL sticking for all of the hand parts in this lesson. Let’s get started.

To begin, we’ll play 16th notes between the snare and bass drum. Be sure to keep a smooth even feel throughout. Start at 50 bpm, then, once you are comfortable, move the metronome up 8–12 clicks. Continue this process until you reach your top speed. Remember, don’t sacrifice a smooth even feel for speed. If the pattern is sounding a little wobbly, you’re probably trying to play it too fast.

♩ = 50-104

Basic Fill Pattern

1.

R L R L R L R L

Let’s use this pattern as a one bar fill into one bar of a simple groove. The two eighth notes on the 4th beat of bar one serve as a set-up from the fill into the groove.

♩ = 104

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. For this example, we’ll start on the snare drum, move to the hi-tom, medium tom, then to the lo-tom.

4.

snare hi-tom med-tom lo-tom

R L R L R L R L

Let's play a couple of fills using this concept. For the first example, the hands move from the snare drum, to the hi-tom, to the medium tom, then, back to the snare for the flam set-up

♩ = 100

5.

For this example, we'll start on the hi-tom, move to the snare, move to the med-tom, then, play the flam set-up on the lo-tom

6.

Next, we'll incorporate right hand accents into our fill. For this version, the right hand will start on the snare drum, move to the hi-tom, medium tom, then to the lo-tom. The left hand stays on the snare for the entire fill.

7.

snare hi-tom med-tom lo-tom

♩ = 92

R L R L R L R L

Let's use this concept to create a fill and play it into a groove. For this example the right hand plays on the snare, moves to the hi-tom, to the lo-tom, then moves back to the snare for the flam set-up.

♩ = 98

8.

snare hi-tom lo-tom Set-up

Now, we'll incorporate the hi-hat into our fill. For this version, the left hand plays the hi-hat on the second 16th notes of beats 1 & 3, then the snare drum on the second 16th notes of beats 2 & 4. The right hand moves between the snare and lo-tom or snare and hi-hat.

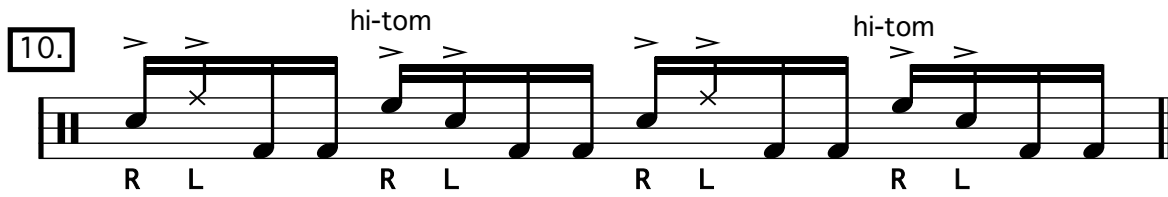
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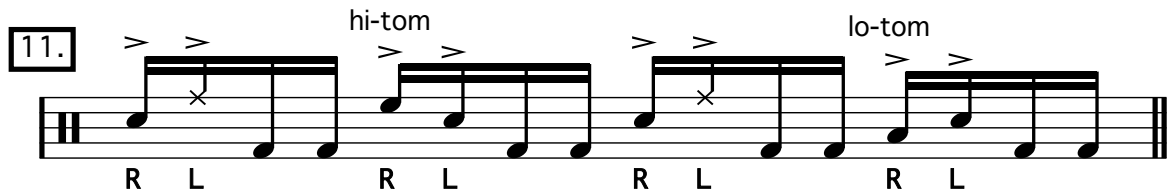
hi-hat lo-tom hi-hat lo-tom

♩ = 92

R L R L R L R L

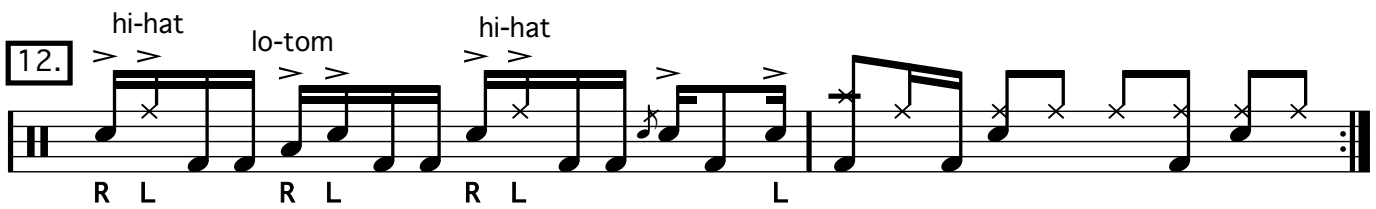
♩ = 92

10. 

11. 

Here are a couple of examples of this version of the fill played into a groove. Practice these, then develop some of your own.

♩ = 104

12. 

13. 