

Funk/Rock Fills - Part 3

(SDVL39)

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Welcome to lesson #3 in my “Funk Fill” lesson series. In this lesson, we’ll take a look at some very useful “half measure fills” plus, some additional “full measure fills” based on the fill pattern from lesson #2. Learn these, then develop some of your own.

This first example is a half measure fill. Notice that it starts on the 3rd beat of the measure.

♩ = 104

Half Measure Fills

1.

R L

Now, we’ll simply move the first note of the fill up to the hi-tom.

2.

hi-tom

R L R L

Next, we’ll play a little funkier groove and incorporate a left hand hi-hat note into the fill.

♩ = 104

3.

Hi-hat

R L

Here, we’ll move the second note of the fill up to the hi-tom and play a funkier set-up rhythm. Notice that the flam note of the set-up rhythm is played using the right hand on a medium tom.

4.

hi-tom

R L L

Now, we’ll go back to playing full measure fills, but change up the basic fill rhythm. The first three examples use a flam on the second beat of the bar. This gives the fill somewhat of the “start/stop effect”. Here’s a simple version just using the snare drum.

♩ = 104

Full Measure Fills - Start/Stop Effect

5.

R L R L

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Next, we'll accent the hi and medium toms with the right hand and play ghost notes () with the left.

6.

hi-tom med-tom

R L R L

For this version, the right hand accents the snare then the medium-tom. The left hand accents the hi-tom then the snare.

♩ = 100

7.

snare/hi-tom med-tom/snare

R L R L

The next two fills 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. Here's a simple version just using the snare and bass drum.

♩ = 92

8.

.....Implied 3/4 time signature..... Set-up

R L R L R L R

Now, for the next two examples, we'll move the fill around the set.

♩ = 96

9.

hi-tom med-tom Set-up

R L R L R L R L

As mentioned in the previous lessons, it's always a good idea to practice in "four bar phrases". For our final examples, we'll play a four-bar phrase with the fill on the 4th bar.

*In the video I only played one bass drum note in the fill. Practice it this way, then try version #11 for a nice sounding variation.

10.

..... Set-up
6

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

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Here's the version of the previous fill I intended to play. This version uses two bass drum notes in the fill instead of one.

11.

R L R L R L R L R L

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