

Simple Solid Drum Fills - Lesson #1

(SDVL57)

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Welcome to the first lesson in my 3-Part "Simple Solid Drum Fill" lesson series. In this series, I will teach to a variety of simple, solid drum fills that work great in a wide variety of music settings. Unfortunately, many drummers are pretty clear about the grooves they are playing, but when it comes to fills, they seem to play whatever comes to mind. This is where tempo, feel and consistency will often suffer. Studio drummers and seasoned pros alike, all have their toolbox of memorized fills that they know will work with the grooves they are playing. Let's get started building yours.

For this lesson, we will use the *1 and uh* sixteenth note rhythm for our fill. It's a road tested "go-to fill" that works great when played from a variety of different grooves and at a variety of different tempos.

Please keep in mind that in order to play the following examples with the correct feel, it's essential that you use written sticking.

1.

Fill
1 and uh
R R L

Once you get comfortable playing each of the fill examples, they should be practiced in a two bar phrase with one full bar of a basic groove followed by the bar with the fill.

2.

.... Fill

For this example you'll play the snare and hi-hat together on beat 4, then play the snare on the "and uh" using a RL sticking.

3.

.... Fill
R L

Now, we'll play a flam on the first note of the fill.

4.

.... Fill

Next, we'll play the first note of the fill on the hi tom.

5.

Hi Tom
R R L