

Simple Effective Rock/R&B Fills

"Part 1" (SVDL5)

John Xepoleas

In this lesson I'm going to teach you how to play a series of simple, yet effective drum fills that work great in Rock, Funk, R&B, and Contemporary music settings. To start, we'll use the "1 and uh" sixteenth note rhythm. It's one of my "go-to fills" that can be played 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 ..
R L

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.

R L

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

4.

R L

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

5.

Hi Tom
R R L

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For the next two examples we'll use the "1 e and" sixteenth note rhythm for our fill. The last note, or the "and" of this example, is played on the hi-tom.

6.

R L R

The last note of this fill will be played using the hi-hat and bass drum.

7.

R L

The next four examples utilize a classic R&B eighth note set-up to the "1 and uh" and "1 e and" rhythms. Once again, be sure to use the written sticking to get the correct feel for these fills.

8.

R R R R L

9.

Hi Tom
R R R R L

10.

Hi Tom
R R R L R

11.

R R R L

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For the next three examples, we'll set-up our "1 and uh" and "1 e and" rhythms with a snare flam on beat three, followed by a bass drum on the "and" of three.

12.

R R L

13.

Hi Tom

R R L

14.

Hi Tom

R L R

For the last three examples, we'll combine the "1 e and" and "1 and uh" rhythms to create nice "two beat" fills.

15.

R L R R R L

16.

Hi Tom

R L R R L

17.

Hi Med

R L R R R L