

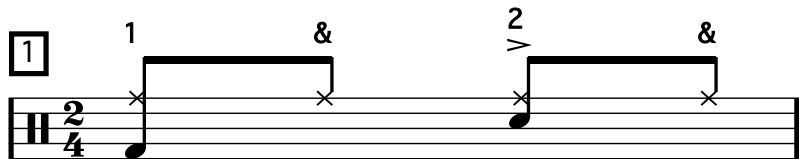
Odd Time Signature Lesson Series

Lesson #4 - Playing in 5/4 (SVDL69)

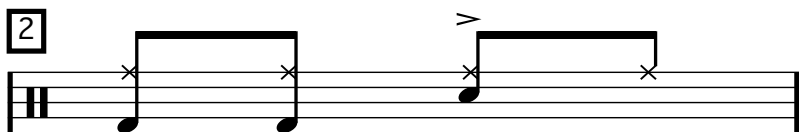
John Xepoleas

Welcome to the fourth lesson in my “Odd Time Signature” lesson series. In this lesson I will teach you how to sub-divide to create a series of nice sounding easy to understand 5/4 grooves that I know you’ll dig playing.

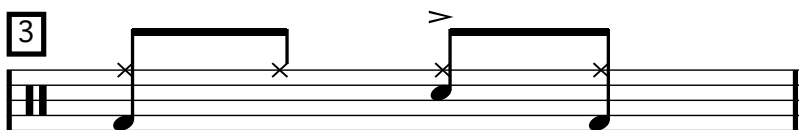
We’ll begin by learning a series of 2/4 patterns. Later in the lesson, we’ll combine these patterns with a series of 3/4 patterns to create our 5/4 grooves. Let’s start with the bass drum on beat one and the snare on beat two. I like to refer to this pattern as the mother of all grooves.



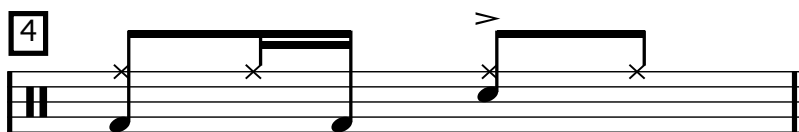
Now we’ll add a bass drum to the “and” of beat one.



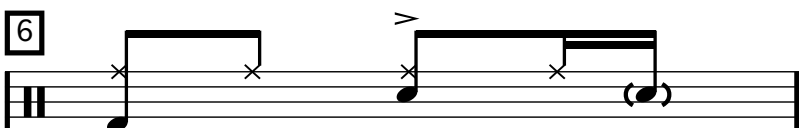
For this version we’ll add the bass drum to the “and” of beat two.



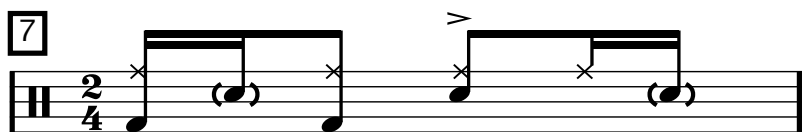
Now we’ll play a 16th note bass drum on the “uh” of beat one, then we’ll add the bass drum to the “and” of beat two on the next example.



Now, we’ll incorporate snare drum ghost notes into the grooves. Play the ghost notes (●) as softly as possible, at about 1” off of the drumhead. Play the accented notes using a rim shot or a full volume stroke. For this example the ghost note will be played on the last 16th note or “uh” of beat two.



Next, we'll add a ghost note to the "e" of beat one and a bass drum to the "and" of the same beat.



This version is similar to the previous pattern except the bass drum has been moved to the "uh" of beat one.



Now we will create our 5/4 grooves by combining the 2/4 patterns from this lesson with some of the 3/4 patterns you learned in the previous three lessons. For all of the examples in this lesson we'll play a 2-3 subdivision which means we'll play a 2/4 pattern followed by a 3/4 pattern.

Lesson Note: A dotted line will appear in each measure so you can easily see the sub-division.

Performance note: A 5/4 measure can also be played using a 3-2 sub-division. The music you are playing will dictate how the measure will be sub-divided. Listen carefully to the bass player. His or her pattern will most often outline the sub-division for the song.

For the first four examples we'll combine our 2/4 patterns with 3/4 patterns from lesson #1 where the snare drum is played on counts two and three. We'll start by combining a very basic 2/4 pattern with a very basic 3/4 pattern. Count out loud until you get a good feel for the 2-3 sub-division and can easily play the pattern.



Now we'll add a couple of bass drum notes to make the groove a little more interesting.



Here we'll add a ghost note to the second beat of the 2/4 pattern and the third beat of the 3/4 pattern.



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This version combines example 7 from this lesson with example 12 from lesson #1.

Example 4b shows a 5/4 time signature drum pattern on a single staff. The first measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The second measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The third measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The fourth measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The fifth measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The pattern is marked with 'x' above the notes and '>' above the dotted notes.

Now we'll combine our 2/4 patterns with 3/4 patterns from lesson #2 where the snare drum is played on the third count of the measure. We'll start with two very basic patterns. Don't forget to count out loud until you get a good feel for the 2-3 sub-division and can easily play the pattern.

Example 5b shows a 2/4 time signature drum pattern on a single staff. The first measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The second measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The third measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The fourth measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The fifth measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The pattern is marked with '1 &' above the first measure, '2 &' above the second measure, '1 &' above the third measure, '2 &' above the fourth measure, and '3 &' above the fifth measure.

Let's make the bass drum patterns a bit more interesting.

Example 6b shows a 2/4 time signature drum pattern on a single staff. The first measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The second measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The third measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The fourth measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The fifth measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The pattern is marked with 'x' above the notes.

Now we'll make things a little funkier. First we'll combine example 7 from this lesson with example 10 from lesson #2.

Example 7b shows a 5/4 time signature drum pattern on a single staff. The first measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The second measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The third measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The fourth measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The fifth measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The pattern is marked with 'x' above the notes and '>' above the dotted notes.

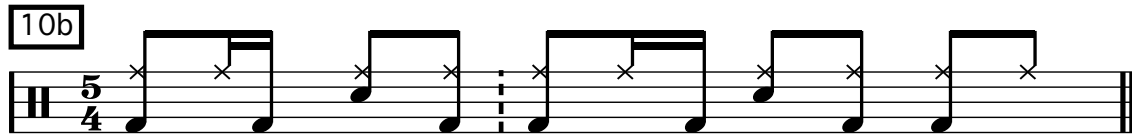
Next we'll combine example 8 from this lesson with example 12 from lesson #2.

Example 8b shows a 5/4 time signature drum pattern on a single staff. The first measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The second measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The third measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The fourth measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The fifth measure contains a quarter note followed by a dotted quarter note. The pattern is marked with 'x' above the notes and '>' above the dotted notes.

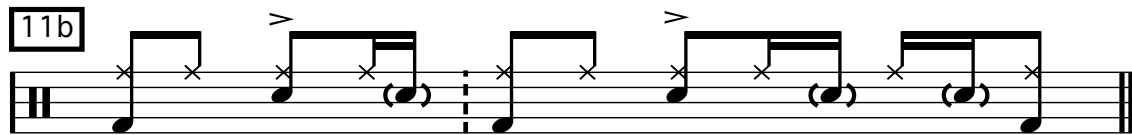
Now we'll combine our 2/4 patterns with the 3/4 patterns from lesson #3 where the snare drum is played on the second count of the measure. As with the previous examples we'll start by playing two simple patterns to get a good feel for the sub-division.

Example 9b shows a 2/4 time signature drum pattern on a single staff. The first measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The second measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The third measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The fourth measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The fifth measure contains a quarter note followed by a quarter note. The pattern is marked with '1 &' above the first measure, '2 &' above the second measure, '1 &' above the third measure, '2 &' above the fourth measure, and '3 &' above the fifth measure.

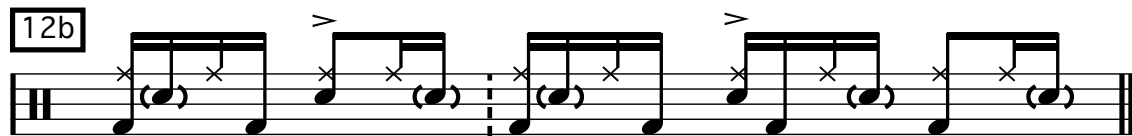
Let's add some 16th notes to the bass drum patterns.



Now we'll add some ghost notes.



For our last example we'll combine example 8 from this lesson with example 12 from lesson #3



Well, that wraps up this lesson, I sure hope you enjoyed it. In lesson #5 I will teach you how to combine 4/4 patterns with the 3/4 patterns from lessons 1-3 to create a series of nice sounding 7/4 grooves.