

Odd Time Signature Lesson Series

Lesson #6 - Playing in 6/4 (SVDL71)

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Welcome to the sixth lesson in my “Odd Time Signature” lesson series. In this lesson I will teach you how to create a series of nice sounding 6/4 grooves. We will start by using a 3-3 subdivision. Then we'll use a 4-2 and 2-4 subdivision. A dotted line will appear in each measure so you can easily see the sub-divisions.

For our first example we'll combine a very simple 3/4 pattern from lesson #1 with a simple 3/4 pattern from lesson #2. Count out loud until you get a good feel for the pattern.

1

For this version we'll combine example 6 from lesson #1 with example 5 from lesson #2. Remember, I'm simply combining the 3/4 examples from the first three lessons in this series. Practice these grooves then try some different combinations of your own.

2

For the next two grooves we'll combine patterns from lesson numbers 1 and 3.

3

4

The next three grooves were created by combining two 3/4 patterns from lesson #2. This one combines examples 2 and 3 from lesson #2.

5

Here we'll combine examples 3 and 12 from lesson #2

Musical notation for example 6, a 6/8 groove. It consists of six eighth notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. The first, third, and fifth notes have an accent (>). The second and fourth notes are ghost notes (●). A vertical dashed line is placed between the third and fourth notes.

Now we'll combine examples 9 and 2 from lesson #2.

Musical notation for example 7, a 6/8 groove. It consists of six eighth notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. The first, third, and fifth notes have an accent (>). The second and fourth notes are ghost notes (●). A vertical dashed line is placed between the third and fourth notes.

The next three grooves were created by combining the patterns from lesson numbers 2 and 3. This first one is very simple and very sparse. Practice it slowly until you get a good feel for the snare drum placement. And if it helps, count out loud.

Musical notation for example 8, a 6/8 groove. It consists of six eighth notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. Above the notes are counts: 1 &, 2 &, 3 &, 1 &, 2 &, 3 &. A vertical dashed line is placed between the third and fourth notes.

Here's a catchy little groove.

Musical notation for example 9, a 6/8 groove. It consists of six eighth notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. A vertical dashed line is placed between the third and fourth notes.

Now we'll break out the ghost notes (●). Be sure to play them as softly as possible, at about 1" off of the drumhead.


Musical notation for example 10, a 6/8 groove. It consists of six eighth notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. The first, third, and fifth notes have an accent (>). The second and fourth notes are ghost notes (●). A vertical dashed line is placed between the third and fourth notes.

The next 4 grooves were all created by combining examples from lesson #3. Once again, we'll start out by playing a very sparse pattern.

Musical notation for example 11, a 6/8 groove. It consists of six eighth notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. Above the notes are counts: 1 &, 2 &, 3 &, 1 &, 2 &, 3 &. A vertical dashed line is placed between the third and fourth notes.

Here, we'll combine examples 2 and 7 from lesson #3.

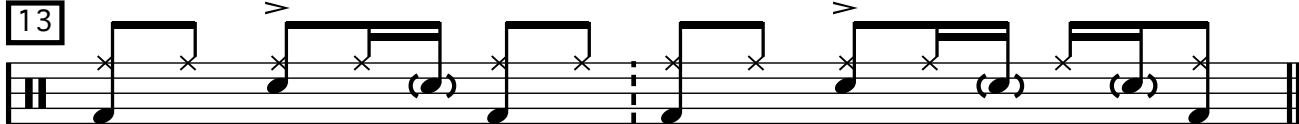
12



Musical notation for example 12, showing a sequence of notes with accents and a repeat sign.

Now, we'll add some ghost notes and funk things up a bit for the next two grooves.

13



Musical notation for example 13, including ghost notes and accents.

14




Musical notation for example 14, including ghost notes and accents.

For the following four grooves we will use a 4-2 subdivision. That means we will be combining groups of four and two. This first example combines a simple 4/4 pattern with a very basic 2/4 pattern.

15

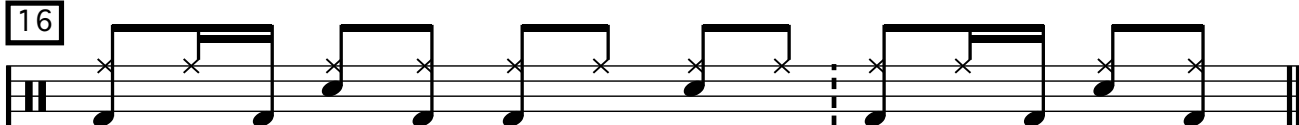
1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 &



Musical notation for example 15, with a 4-2 subdivision and accents.

This groove was created by combining example 3 from lesson #5 with example 5 from lesson #4.

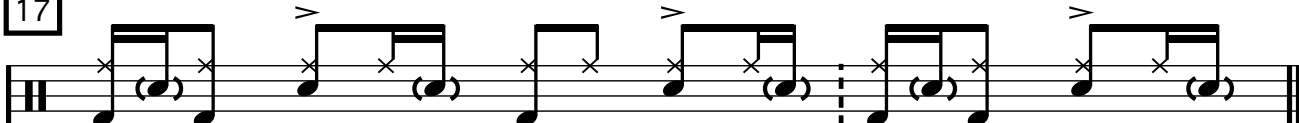
16



Musical notation for example 16.

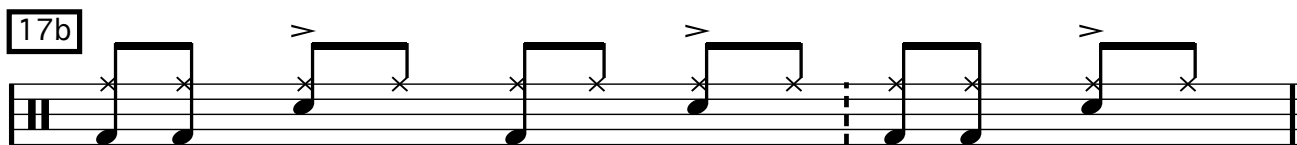
Now it's time for some more ghost notes. Remember to play them as softly as possible.

17



Musical notation for example 17, including ghost notes and accents.

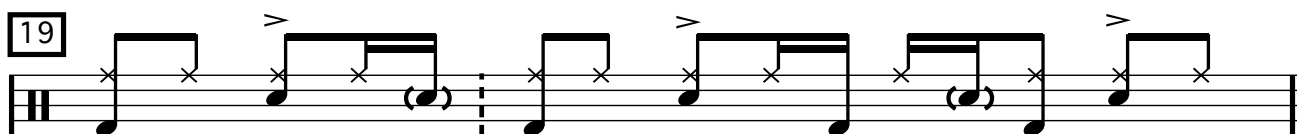
I love how ghost notes can totally change the character of a groove. See what the previous groove would look and sound like without the ghost notes.



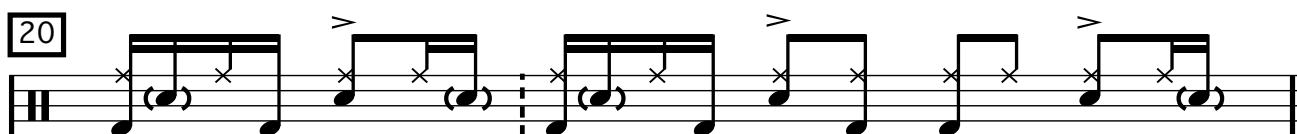
Next we'll use a 2-4 subdivision. For this groove we will combine example 4 from lesson #4 with example 3 from lesson #5.



Here we will combine example 6 from lesson #4 with example 7 from lesson #5.



For our final example we'll once again add some ghost notes to the groove and funk things up.



Well, that wraps up this lesson series. I sure hope you enjoyed it. Stayed tuned for new lessons and please let your friends know about JohnX Online Drum lessons.