

Jazz Fills

Part 3 - 8th Notes

John Xepoleas

This is the third lesson in my "Jazz Fill" drum lesson series. In this lesson, I'm going to teach you how to play a classic jazz fill using swung 8th notes played between the snare or toms and bass drum. We'll play the examples using just one hand then we'll play them using a "Stick on Stick" technique. With this technique your right hand hits the left stick to create a old school rim-shot sound. For the first example, the right hand will move between the snare drum and hi-tom.

♩ = 120 - 176

1.

4/4

R hi-tom R hi-tom

All of the 8th notes in this lesson are to be played with a swing feel. This is referred to as playing "swung 8th notes".

3 3 3 3

Now we'll move the right hand to the low tom on the 2nd and 4th beats of the measure.

2.

low-tom low-tom

R R R R

For this example, the right hand will move from the snare to the hi-tom, then the snare to the low-tom.

3.

hi-tom low-tom

R R R R

Now, play the hi-hat with your foot on beats 2 and 4. Notice that the hi-hat plays at the same time the right hand plays on the hi-tom. Be sure they are locked in and playing together.

4.

R R

R x R x

Jazz Fills Part 3 - Page 2

Once you are comfortable playing the previous examples, practice playing them as two bar fills into two bars of a swing time feel. In this example we are ending the fill using a push on the end of the 4th beat. **NOTE:** To make smooth transitions into the fill from your time feel be sure to stop your jazz ride pattern with a quarter note on beat 4 of measure two.

5.

Now we are going to apply a "Stick on Stick" (SOS) technique to the snare drum parts. "Stick on Stick" is a method used by Philly Jo Jones, Max Roach, Buddy Rich and other jazz legends to play rim shots.

6.

Now we'll play example #5 using the "Stick on Stick" technique to play the snare parts.

7.

The next three examples are based on a three-beat swung 8th note pattern and are written in a 3/4 time signature. The right hand moves to the toms on beats 2 and 3. Practice all of the examples on the snare using a single stroke with your right hand then with the "Stick on Stick" technique.

8.

Jazz Fills Part 3 - Page 3

9. low-tom low-tom

10. hi-tom low-tom

The following two fills "cross the bar-line". Because the rhythmic pattern is based on a 3/4 time signature, it ends on the 3rd beat of the 4/4 measure and starts again on the 4th beat. It then carries over into the next measure to create a fill that crosses the bar-line. See how the 8th notes are grouped into two groups of three and one group of two. As with the previous examples, practice these on the snare using a single stroke, then with the "Stick on Stick" technique.

11. hi-tom hi-tom

12. hi-tom low-tom hi-tom low-tom