

Jazz Comping

Part 4 - Quarter Note Triplets

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Welcome to part 4 in my Jazz comping lesson series. In this part, I will teach you how to use quarter note triplets to add some excitement to your comping.

Let's start by getting a good feel for the snare note that lands in the middle of the first and third triplets of the measure.

♩ = 92-152

1.

Ride Cymbal
Snare
Hi-hat (foot)

Now we'll add the snare parts that land with the ride cymbal on the first and third notes of the triplet.

2.

If you find it difficult to play the quarter note triplet rhythm along with the jazz ride pattern, try using a quarter note ride pattern instead.

3.

Once you're comfortable playing the quarter note triplet comping pattern, practice playing it for two bars into two bars of a swing time feel.

4.

5.

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Now we'll play the quarter note triplet rhythm for the last two bars of an 8 bar phrase. You'll notice that the rhythm will create excitement and anticipation as it leads to the end of the phrase.

5.

Next we'll practice moving the quarter note triplet rhythm around the set. For the first example, the left hand starts on the snare, then moves to the hi and lo toms in a clockwise fashion.

6.

For this example, we'll create an interesting effect by playing the left hand moves between the hi and lo toms.

7.

For this example the left hand moves between the snare and hi tom.

8.

Musical notation for exercise 8, showing a four-measure phrase. The notation is on a single staff with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. The phrase consists of four measures, each containing a triplet of eighth notes. Above the first measure is the label 'SD', above the second 'Hi', above the third 'SD', and above the fourth 'Hi'. The notes in each measure are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter). The first measure has an 'x' above the G4 note. The second measure has an 'x' above the A4 note. The third measure has an 'x' above the B4 note. The fourth measure has an 'x' above the G4 note. The phrase ends with a double bar line.

Let's apply this concept to a nice sounding four bar phrase.

9.

Musical notation for exercise 9, showing an eight-measure phrase in 4/4 time. The notation is on a single staff with a key signature of one flat. The phrase consists of eight measures, each containing a triplet of eighth notes. The notes in each measure are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter). The first measure has an 'x' above the G4 note. The second measure has an 'x' above the A4 note. The third measure has an 'x' above the B4 note. The fourth measure has an 'x' above the G4 note. The fifth measure has an 'x' above the A4 note. The sixth measure has an 'x' above the B4 note. The seventh measure has an 'x' above the G4 note. The eighth measure has an 'x' above the A4 note. The phrase ends with a double bar line.