

COOL DRUM GROOVE ORCHESTRATIONS

By Alex Ribchester

In this lesson we have got a cool groove with some challenging elements that we are going to give an alternative voicing, as well as looking at using in a drum fill context. This idea contains some quick 32nd notes as well as some hand crossovers.

This first example is the basic groove played between the kick snare and hi hats with a single stroke sticking pattern. If you have trouble with the open hi hats, leave them out until you are more familiar with the core of the groove.

Musical notation for the basic groove. It consists of four measures. Above the staff, the sticking pattern is indicated as R L R L R L, R L R L R L R L, R L R L, and R L. The notation shows a kick drum on the first beat of each measure, followed by a snare drum on the second and fourth beats. Hi-hats are played throughout, with an open hi-hat on the fourth beat of each measure.

This is the same groove in which beats 2 and 3 have been orchestrated around the kit.

Musical notation for the groove with kit orchestration. It consists of four measures. The sticking pattern is R L R L R L, R L R L R L R L, R L R L, and R L. The notation shows a kick drum on the first beat of each measure. On beats 2 and 3, the snare and hi-hats are played together. On beats 4, the snare and hi-hats are played together, with an open hi-hat on the fourth beat of each measure.

This is the same rhythm again, only this time we are now playing the notes of beat 1 between the high tom and floor tom.

Musical notation for the groove with tom orchestration. It consists of four measures. The sticking pattern is R L R L R L, R L R L R L R L, R L R L, and R L. The notation shows a kick drum on the first beat of each measure. On beats 2 and 3, the high tom and floor tom are played together. On beats 4, the snare and hi-hats are played together, with an open hi-hat on the fourth beat of each measure.

Here is that idea played as a single measure drum fill in between two basic 4/4 groove. Experiment with your own drum beats and see what you can come up with.

Musical notation for the groove with a drum fill. It consists of four measures. The sticking pattern is R L R L R L, R L R L R L R L, R L R L, and R L. The notation shows a kick drum on the first beat of each measure. On beats 2 and 3, the snare and hi-hats are played together. On beats 4, the snare and hi-hats are played together, with an open hi-hat on the fourth beat of each measure.