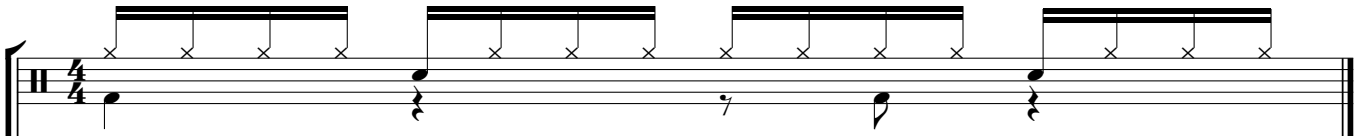


How To Voice My Groove

By Alex Ribchester

This lesson looks at what you can do with a basic groove when you spice it up and make it your own by using dynamics and alternative voices. Hope you enjoy!!

This is the core of the groove at its most basic, in which we are playing solid single stroke 16th notes on the hi hat and hitting the snare with our leading hand on beats 2 and 4. At this point the kick is only being played on beat 1 and the '&' of 3




The first exercise shows a 4/4 drum groove. The top staff is a hi-hat line with four groups of four 16th notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a hi-hat stroke. The bottom staff is a snare line with quarter notes on beats 2 and 4, and a quarter note on the first beat of the third measure. A kick drum is played on the first beat of each measure.

In this exercise, we are going to move the same groove onto the snare. We are playing the exact same rhythm, but in order for the groove to come through, we will need to play the 16th notes as ghost notes and accent beats 2 and 4.



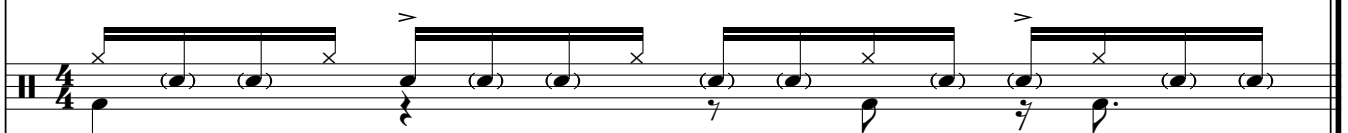
The second exercise shows the same 4/4 drum groove. The top staff is a snare line with four groups of four 16th notes, each marked with a '>' to indicate an accent. The bottom staff is a hi-hat line with quarter notes on beats 2 and 4, and a quarter note on the first beat of the third measure. A kick drum is played on the first beat of each measure.

Here we start to work on the main idea of the video. Start by simply practicing the 'voicing', moving the right and left hands up to the hi hat at the correct times. In this particular groove, you will be playing the kick drum whenever your leading hand strikes the hi hats. Almost play each hi hat stroke as an accent so that it cuts through above the ghost notes on the snare.



The third exercise shows the same 4/4 drum groove. The top staff is a snare line with four groups of four 16th notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a hi-hat stroke. The bottom staff is a hi-hat line with quarter notes on beats 2 and 4, and a quarter note on the first beat of the third measure. A kick drum is played on the first beat of each measure.

Once you have got the main groove down, we can start to add whatever we like to it. A good place to start is by adding more kick drums. In this beat, we are simply going to add one kick on the 'e' of 4, so it will land at the same time as the left hand on the hi hat as seen at 6:40 on the video.



The fourth exercise shows the same 4/4 drum groove. The top staff is a snare line with four groups of four 16th notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a hi-hat stroke. The bottom staff is a hi-hat line with quarter notes on beats 2 and 4, and a quarter note on the first beat of the third measure. A kick drum is played on the first beat of each measure, and an additional kick drum is played on the 'e' of 4.

In this version of the groove, we have got a kick drum being played every time we hit the hi hat. Try looping the beat and experiment by adding or taking away bass drum notes to any of the 16th note that you play with the hands. Have some fun with it!



The fifth exercise shows the same 4/4 drum groove. The top staff is a snare line with four groups of four 16th notes, each marked with an 'x' to indicate a hi-hat stroke. The bottom staff is a hi-hat line with quarter notes on beats 2 and 4, and a quarter note on the first beat of the third measure. A kick drum is played on the first beat of each measure, and an additional kick drum is played on the 'e' of 4.

What also sounds quite cool, is if you play open hi hats when you played with a kick drum. Try closing the hi hat when you hit the follow 16th note as shown below. You can mix this idea with the previous exercises to create some funky beats. Enjoy



The sixth exercise shows the same 4/4 drum groove. The top staff is a snare line with four groups of four 16th notes, each marked with a '+' to indicate an open hi-hat stroke. The bottom staff is a hi-hat line with quarter notes on beats 2 and 4, and a quarter note on the first beat of the third measure. A kick drum is played on the first beat of each measure, and an additional kick drum is played on the 'e' of 4.