

Groove & Fill - Accents On The Hats

By Alex Ribchester

This is a nice little idea that explores the use of accents on the hi hats. I really enjoy playing grooves of this nature as they add some texture and dynamics to the beat. Try hitting the edge of the hi hat with the shoulder of the stick, rather than using the tip on top to make those accents really stand out.

The groove below has not got any accents yet, it is simply the rhythm that we will be adding them too later. Try and get this down first before adding the accents, as you want to have a solid foundation to build on. Note: The kick on the 'e' of 4 is played at the same time as your left hand and can be a little tricky to get used to, so take it slow and work your way up.

The first staff of music shows a 4/4 time signature. The top staff contains four groups of hi-hat patterns, each consisting of a quarter note followed by an eighth note and a sixteenth note, with 'x' marks above the notes. The bottom staff shows a kick drum on the 'e' of 4, which is played simultaneously with the left hand.

Again, no accents in this groove yet, but we have moved the left hand down to the snare so that we get used to where the accents are going to be. Also... it sounds quite cool too.

The second staff of music shows the same 4/4 groove as the first staff, but the left hand is now on the snare drum. The hi-hat patterns and the kick drum on the 'e' of 4 remain the same.

Ok, so now we are going to move the left hand back up to the hi hats and play the notes that were on the snare as accents on the hats. You want to get a louder sound that stands out from the rest of the hi hat notes.

The third staff of music shows the groove with accents on the hi hats. The left hand is back on the hi hats, and the notes that were previously on the snare are now marked with an accent (>) above them.

In this groove I have added some 32nd notes on the '&' and the 'a' of 4 for a bit of variation. You could play them as either single or double stroke rolls... its up to you.

The fourth staff of music shows the groove with 32nd notes on the '&' and 'a' of 4. The notes are marked with an accent (>) above them.

Here is a nice little fill that fits the theme of the groove, using a combination of 32nd and 16th notes. When playing the open hi hats, try to only keep it open for a single 32nd note. It could work as a groove as well, but you could play the same rhythm elsewhere on the kit for a bit of variation. Enjoy.

The fifth staff of music shows a fill that fits the theme of the groove. It uses a combination of 32nd and 16th notes. The notes are marked with an accent (>) above them.