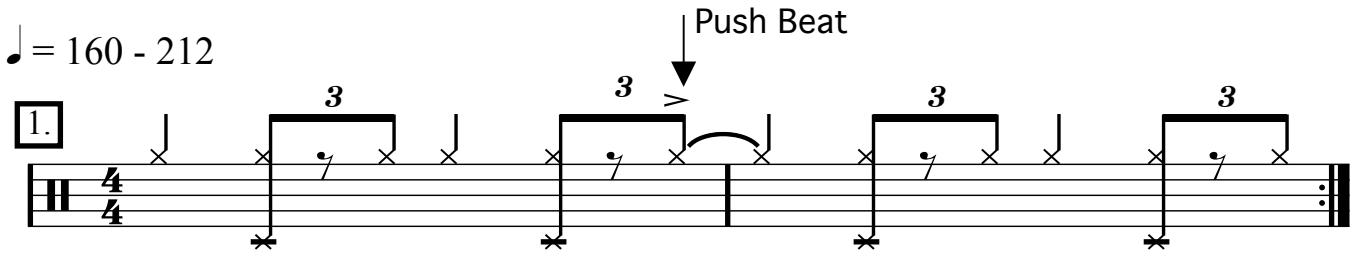
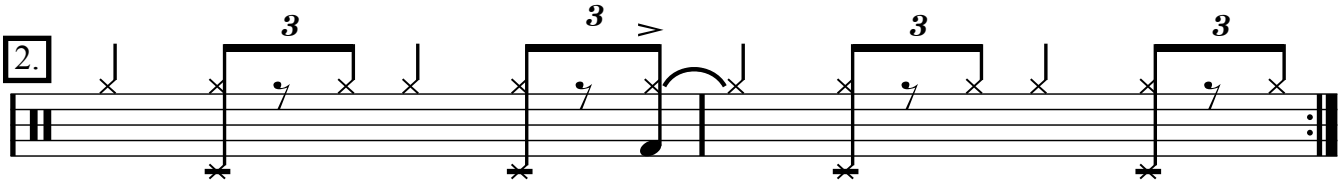
Push Beats

John Xepoleas

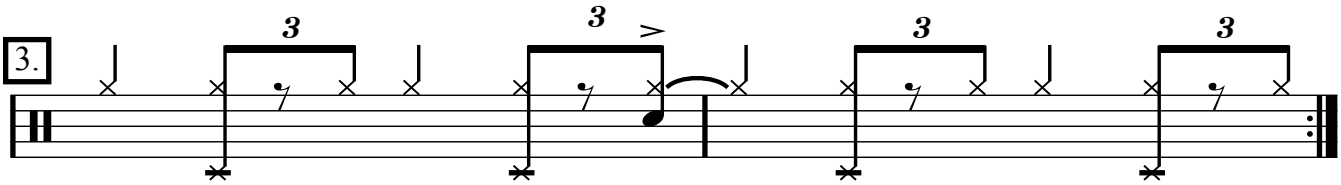
In this lesson I'll teach you how to play push beats from a swing jazz feel. A push beat is a method of ending a phrase or pattern on an "upbeat" of the measure. It's an approach used by many jazz musicians to create a little more excitement in their playing. Play the push by accenting the ride cymbal using the tip or shoulder of the stick to get somewhat of a splashy sound. In this first example the push comes on the upbeat of the 4th count of the first measure.



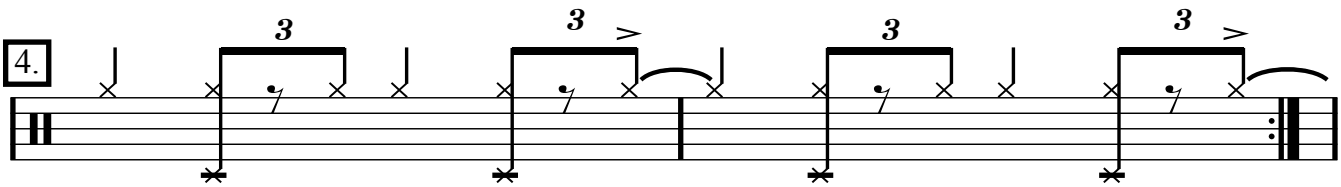
Now let's add the bass drum to the push. Be sure to continue to accent the cymbal when adding the bass drum to the push.



For this example, add the snare drum to the push. Play an accented note on the snare, but don't over do it.



Now we'll play a push at the end of every measure.



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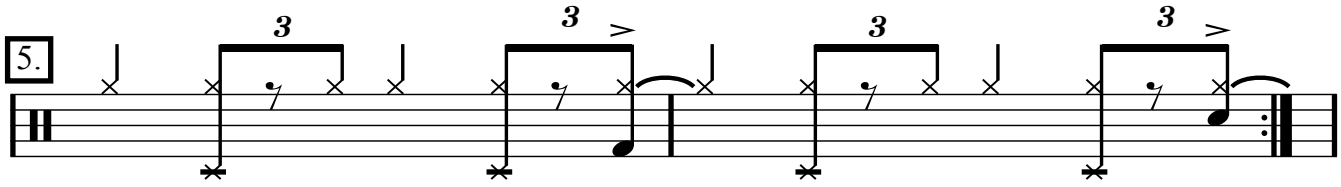
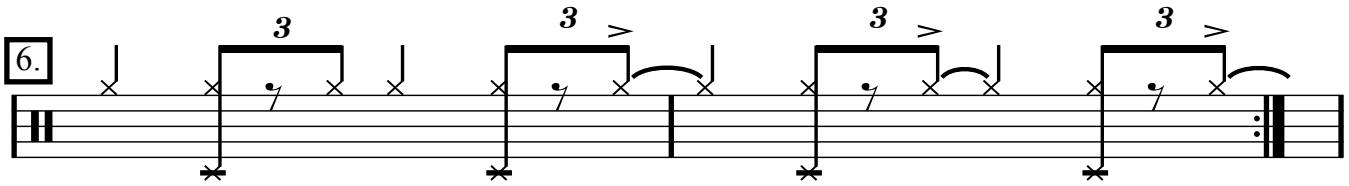
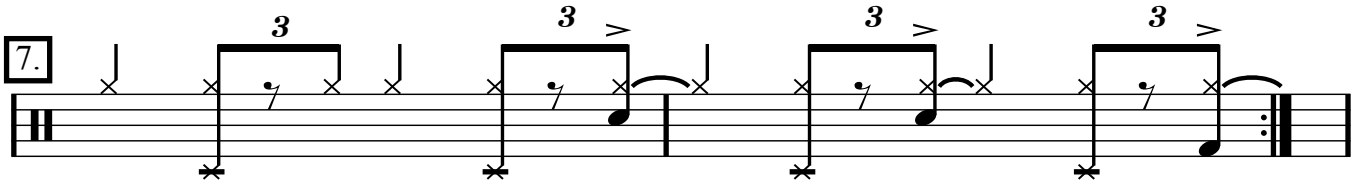
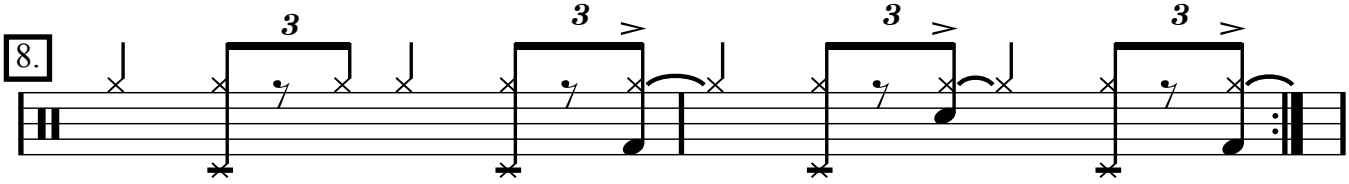
Practice adding a bass drum, then a snare drum to each push. Once you are comfortable with each, practice alternating them.

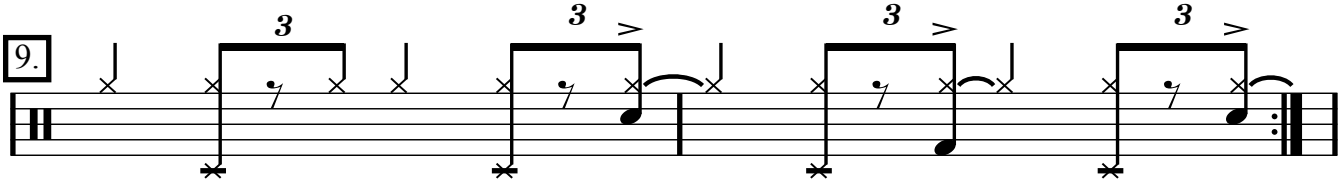


We'll play multiple pushes on the following examples



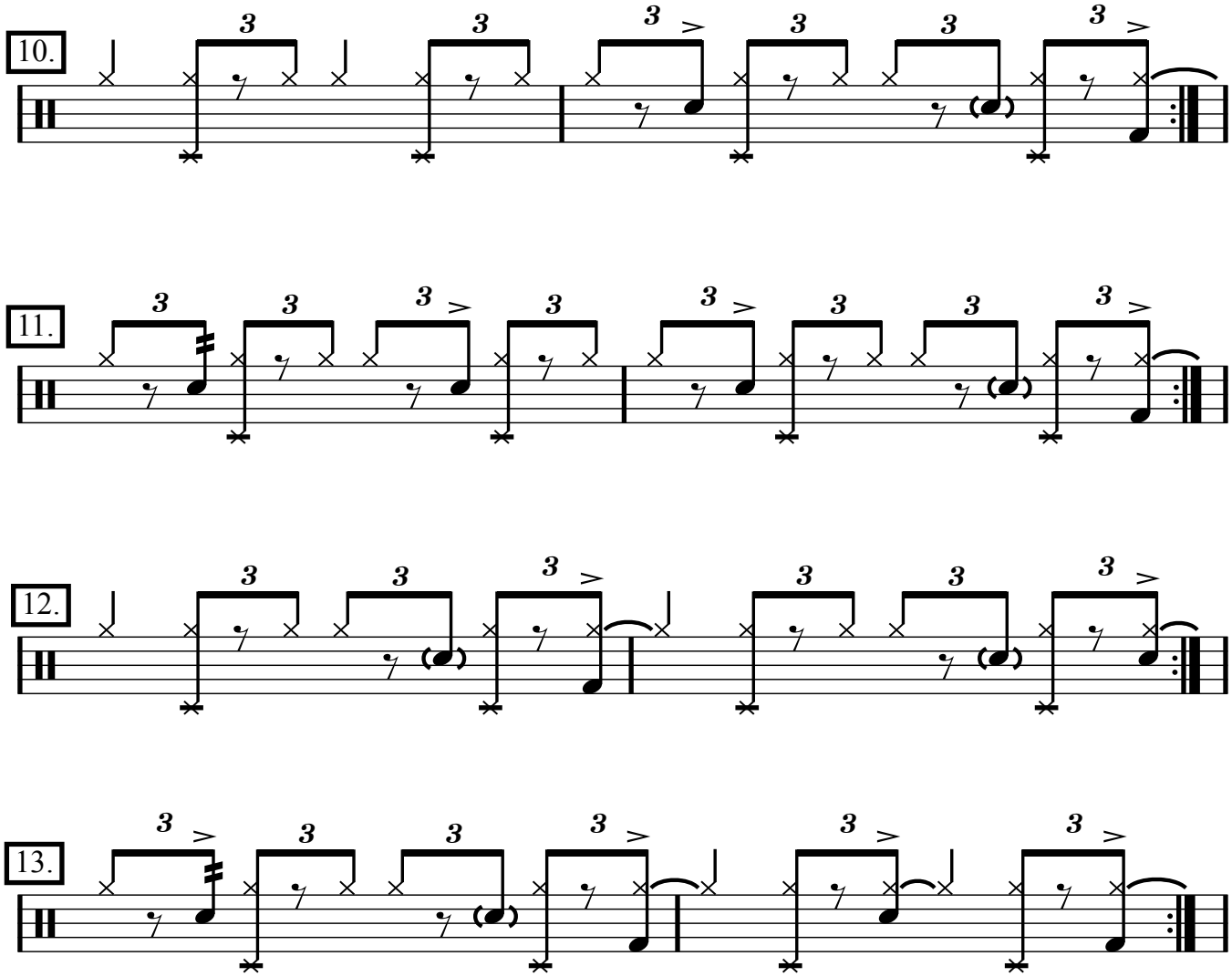






Let's set up the pushes using some comping patterns. Notice the ghost notes (𝅗𝅥) just before the pushes in ex's 10, 11 and 12.

♩ = 165



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