

Keep This Quiet



Too often today's drummers sit down and whale on the kit—it seems to be the norm. If you really want to turn some heads, try playing quietly. I'm not sure why it works, but it does. Maybe it's because the listener becomes “active” by trying to listen rather than having your grooves forced into their ears. Of course, playing quietly isn't something to fit every occasion, but neither is war-clubbing the kit.

This lesson explores a foundational drum beat, designed to sound cool played quietly, and expands the beat with some variations and additions.

FOUNDATION DRUM BEAT

This beat keeps the right stick on the rim of the floor tom and the left stick playing a rim knock on the snare.

1 & a 2 e & a 3 e & 4 & a 1 & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 & a

DRUM BEAT VARIATIONS & ADDITIONS

Move the “1 &” from the rim of the low tom to the low tom head.

1

Add a ghost stroke “echo” effect after the “&” of 1 and after the “4.”

2

Play an extra rim with the right stick on the “e” of 4, creating “4 e &” on the rim.

3