

Accented Sixteenth-Note Triplet Fills



Sixteenth-note triplets are a great way to spice up your fills. Learning to time them appropriately can be difficult. This lesson gives some ideas to help you stay in time. Once you get the timing down, these patterns can be expanded to create great fills.

FILL PATTERN 1

The accents in this pattern fall on the eighth notes. Subdividing a metronome to click on the eighth notes is a great way to practice this pattern's timing because an accent will be played on each click.

1 ah le & ah la 2 ah le & ah la 3 ah le & ah la 4 ah le & ah la

FILL PATTERN 1 (EXPANDED)

To bring out the accents even more, drummers often move the accents around the kit, many times to the crash cymbals. When hitting a crash cymbal, it's a good idea to also hit the bass. It gives the crash a punch. Below is one option for expanding this pattern.

FILL PATTERN 2

Once you become comfortable with the sixteenth-note triplet's timing, try this pattern with syncopated accents. To help keep time, note that the right-stick accent after the left-stick accent always falls on the number.

1 ah le & ah la 2 ah le & ah la 3 ah le & ah la 4 ah le & ah la

FILL PATTERN 2 (EXPANDED)

As with "Fill Pattern 1 (Expanded)", moving the accents to the crash cymbals along with a kick is a great way to bring out those notes. This expanded pattern keeps one accent on the snare drum to bring out the syncopated notes.