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Introducing Eighth Notes

Understanding Eighth Notes

In *Lesson One*, we divided the bar into 4 notes giving us quarter notes.

Now we are going to divide each of those quarter notes in half, producing eighth notes. They are called **eighth notes** because they divide a bar of common time into 8 notes.

You will recall that a quarter note is worth 1 beat. Now that we have cut the quarter note in half, we have two notes per beat and therefore, each note is worth half of a beat. You will see from *Example 1* below a bar of quarter notes and a bar of eighth notes.

Example 1 A bar of quarter notes and a bar of eighth notes



Lesson Objectives

- Understand and be able to count **eighth notes**.
- Further development of three way co-ordination.
- Play more rock grooves using eighth notes.
- Introduce the **single stroke roll**.

Understanding Eighth Notes (using a Single Stroke Roll)

A **single stroke roll** comes from the fact that you play a single stroke per hand, so that the hand pattern will be as shown below in *Exercise 1*, for right handed drummers.

Play a bar of quarter notes and a bar of eighth notes round and round on the snare drum (or **practice pad**).

Count out loud as shown in *Example 1* above, read the + sign as 'and', so you will say "1-2-3-4-1-and-2-and-3-and-4-and".

Exercise 1: lesson002.idsien.01



Left handed drummers start with your left hand, as shown below.



Developing Eighth Notes by Playing Grooves

The most logical thing to do now is to take the rock groove in *Lesson One* and change some of the quarter notes for eighth notes and build a groove that has eighth notes as part of it. We are going to vary the bass drum pattern.

In the exercise below, we have cut beat 3 on the bass drum into 2 eighth notes. You will have noticed that we have left out the hi-hat part for the moment and we will look at bringing the hi-hat in over the next few exercises.

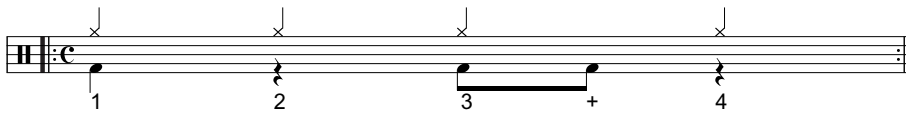
Exercise 2: lesson002.idsien.02



Two Way Co-ordination

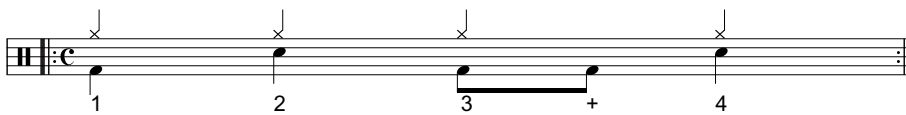
As we did with the rock groove in *Lesson One*, we need to build the pattern, but this is even more important with this groove as the bass drum note on the '+' of '3' is played on it's own; i.e. independently.

Your hi-hat hand may want to play the same as your bass drum, so you will have to focus very carefully on what your body wants to do when you get to the '+' of '3'. Make sure you are counting, so you know where you are.

Exercise 3: lesson002.idsien.03

Three Way Co-ordination

The full pattern has the hi-hat on all four beats, the snare drum on beats 2 and 4 and the bass drum on 1,3 and the '+' of 3. Remember, it is fine to start with two way co-ordination and build up to three way once you feel comfortable. You could start with hi-hat and snare, then, snare and bass drum, then, hi-hat and bass drum, then put all three together.

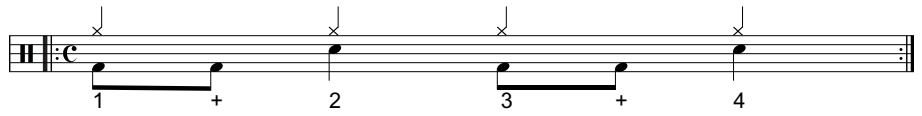
Exercise 4: lesson002.idsien.04

More Rock Grooves

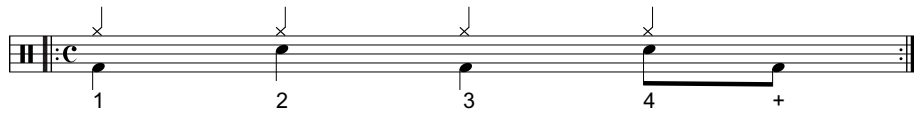
Here are four more exercises incorporating eighth notes played on the bass drum. Remember to build the grooves if you need to, as we did with our first bass drum groove in this lesson.

Use the multimedia files to watch and listen to, then play along with.

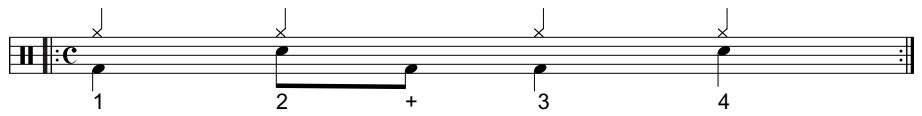
Exercise 5: lesson002.idsien.05



Exercise 6: lesson002.idsien.06



Exercise 7: lesson002.idsien.07



Exercise 8: lesson002.idsien.08

