



## Lesson Sixteen

Gigajam Drum School Lesson 16 IDS DFC

### Developing Fills and Counting

#### Lesson Objectives

- Develop our ability to count whilst playing.
- Expand the Library of fills that we can perform.
- Develop linking grooves and fills with greater fluidity and flow.

#### Developing Counting Skills

Throughout the course we have focused on counting to support our learning and playing of the drums.

Much of this lesson is about advancing those skills, so that we can develop greater control of fills and be able to follow Drum Charts more accurately.

So far all our fills have been one bar in length. Now we are going to go through a system that makes playing shorter and more varied lengths of fills easy to develop.

We need to be able to play different lengths of fills as we use fills for different musical purposes. Often fills are used for linking two sections together, like Verses and Chorus'. Sometimes fills are used to create excitement, or maybe relax the impetus of the song pointing to a change in mood between two different grooves.

Fills are also used to set up phrases played elsewhere in the band. These can be very short fills of say 1 or 2 beats and we will go on to look at setting up accents and phrases in Part 3 of the course.

The first thing we need to do before we can start playing more complex fills, is to understand how to count different length fills. This lesson will focus on fills of one and two beats and the concept can then be translated to other lengths at a later stage.

### One Beat Fills

Lets start by looking at a one beat fill and how we develop them. Looking at the first exercise below you will see that we are using a simple bar of groove with a crash cymbal on beat one. The fill itself is made up of just four sixteenth notes and they are played on the Snare Drum on Beat 4 using a Single Stroke Roll.

You will need to count quite hard as the fill comes round quite quickly each time.

*Note that the first line of sticking shown is for Right Handed players and the second line for Left Handed players.*

#### Exercise 1

lesson016.idsdfc.01



1 2 3 4 e + a  
R L R L  
L R L R

# One Beat Fills-Rhythmic Combinations

The next step is to add different rhythmic figures in place of the 4 sixteenths we have in Exercise 1.

Here you will see a series of examples substituting different rhythms for our fill. Watch the sticking carefully, making sure you follow the Single Stroke Roll rule as we have been throughout the lessons so far.

It is also crucial that you count out loud throughout these exercises so that you know where you are in the groove and when you are supposed to introduce the fill.

Additionally, it is sometimes difficult to play sixteenth note fills coming out of an Eighth Note groove, so you may wish to count sixteenth notes all the way through the bar, so that you can hear the correct subdivision when you come to play the fill.

**Exercise 2**  
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**Exercise 3**  
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**Exercise 4**  
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**Exercise 5**  
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**Exercise 6**  
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**Exercise 7**  
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**Exercise 8**  
lesson016.idsdfc.08



1 2 3 4 + a 1 2 3 4 e a  
R L R L L R L R  
L R L R

**Two Beat Fills**

Now lets look at two beat fills and how we develop them. Look at the first exercise below. Again we are using a simple bar of groove with a crash cymbal on beat one.

The fill itself is just two beats worth of sixteenth notes and they are played on the Snare Drum on Beats 3 and 4 using a Single Stroke Roll.

You will need to count quite hard as the groove is quite abrupt and comes round quite quickly each time.

For each of the exercises in this section there are 2 beats of groove and 2 beats of Fill.

*Note again that the first line of sticking shown is for Right Handed players and the second line for Left Handed players.*

**Exercise 9**  
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1 2 3 e + a 4 e + a  
R L R L R L R L  
L R L R L R L R

## Two Beat Fills-Rhythmic Combinations

The next step is exactly the same as for the one beat fills. Add different rhythmic figures in place of the two sets of 4 sixteenths we have in our first two beat exercise.

The same rhythmic figures are used for our next example, but of course they are played over two beats not one. So following the same approach:

1. Count out loud.
2. Count Sixteenths over the groove to help with the timing of the fill.
3. Following the sticking.

### Exercise 10 lesson016.idsdfc.10



1 2 3 + a 4 + a  
R R L R R L  
L L R L L R

### Exercise 11 lesson016.idsdfc.11



1 2 3 e a 4 e a  
R L L R L L  
L R R L R R

### Exercise 12 lesson016.idsdfc.12



1 2 3 e + 4 e +  
R L R R L R  
L R L L R L

### Exercise 13 lesson016.idsdfc.13



1 2 3 e + a 4 e + a  
L R L L R L  
R L R R L R

### Exercise 14 lesson016.idsdfc.14



1 2 3 e + 4 e +  
L R L R  
R L R L

### Exercise 15 lesson016.idsdfc.15



1 2 3 + a 4 + a  
R L R L  
L R L R

**Exercise 16**  
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1 2 3 e a 4 e a  
L L L L  
R R R R