



Lesson Twenty-One

Gigajam Drum School Lesson 21 IDS IT

Introducing Ties

Lesson Objectives

- Understand what **Ties** are and how they affect a note.
- Develop ways of reading Ties effectively.
- Practise playing Ties through a Snare Drum Study.

Understanding Ties

Ties, like Dots, create huge problems for drummers, as they primarily deal with the length of a note.

Of course the problem is that drums do not have specific note lengths when played. They tend to be very short staccato sounds, particularly in the case of the Snare Drum. To the other extreme the note of a cymbal can be very long and very difficult to judge.

So how do Ties work for the drummer? Well, they have to be understood in the same way as all other musicians understand them.

We need to do two things to help us understand Ties. We need to understand the effect Ties have on the length of a note, and we need to look at the interpretation of ties often required by a drummer to make them work on the drum kit.

Definition of a Tie

A Tie is a Curved line between two notes indicating that the two notes should be played as one. This means that the first note combines its value to that of the second note.

Accordingly, you play the first the note but not the second. The value of the second note is added to the length of the first note.

Look at the example below.

The first note is tied to the second, therefore you play the first note and hold it for two beats, combining the length of the two notes together.

Example of a Tie



Developing our understanding of Ties

Take a look at the example of tied notes below. In conjunction with the media files, lets go through the exercise on the Snare Drum slowly understanding which notes to sound and which not.

Given that we are playing this exercise on the Snare Drum we are effectively looking at which notes to play. The rule to follow is simply play the first note and not the second.

You will notice that the Piano and Bass Guitar on the media files will hold the note, having correctly combined the second notes length to the first.

You can approach this exercise in the following manner.

1. Listen through and read.
2. Go through the exercise a bar at a time.
3. Loop the Drum X tractor around a number of bars.
4. Go through the exercise from top to bottom as a Snare Drum Study.

Exercise 1 lesson021.idsit.01



The musical notation for Exercise 1 is presented on four staves. Each staff begins with a double bar line. The notes are arranged in pairs, with a tie connecting the two notes in each pair. The first staff contains five measures, labeled 1 through 5. The second staff contains three measures, labeled 6 through 8. The third staff contains two measures, labeled 9 and 10. The fourth staff contains two measures, labeled 11 and 12. The notes are primarily quarter notes, with some eighth notes in the later measures. The ties indicate that the second note of each pair is not to be played on the snare drum.

