



Lesson Twenty-Four

Gigajam Drum School Lesson 24 IDS IT

Introducing Triplets (Part 1)

Lesson Objectives

- Understand how **Triplet Eighth Notes** divide the beat.
- Learn how to count Triplet Eighth Notes.
- Play Triplet Eighth Notes as a Single Stroke Roll.
- Develop playing Triplet Eighth Notes as simple fills.

Understanding Triplets

So far on the course we have learned how to subdivide a beat into Quarter Notes, Eighth Notes and Sixteenth Notes. These subdivisions of the beat are collectively referred to as **Simple Time**.

We are now going to look at **Triplets** at the beginning of our study of what is called **Compound Time**.

Triplets can be defined as where a rhythm would have two notes there are three.

The best way to understand this is to look at an example. We count triplets. 1-TRIP-LET 2-TRIP-LET etc. You will see that we abbreviate the triplet count throughout these lessons to 1TL 2TL 3TL 4TL

Introducing Eighth Note Triplets

In the following exercise you will see that we have a bar of Quarter Notes, a bar of Eighth Notes and a bar of Triplet Eighth Notes.

Exercise 1 lesson024.idsit.01



1 2 3 4 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 t 1 2 t 1 3 t 1 4 t 1
 R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
 L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R

Watch and listen to the media files for this first exercise as they will help you understand the sound of triplets. When you go to play them yourself, make a note of a very helpful fact.

The triplets have three notes per beat. This means that when you play a single stroke roll, the starting hand for each beat changes, creating an **Alternating Hand Pattern**.

For the *right handed player* this will mean that beat 1 starts on the right, 2 on the left, 3 on the right and 4 on the left.

For the *left handed player* this will mean that beat 1 starts on the left, 2 on the right, 3 on the left and 4 on the right.

I would consider looping bar 3 and getting used to the feel of the triplets. Then go through the entire exercise, developing your ability to understand the feel of Triplet Eighth Notes in relation to straight Eighth Notes.

Developing the feel of Triplets around the Kit.

As Triplets are brand new to you, lets spend a little time getting used to how they feel played around the Kit.

Taking the triplets as a single stroke roll, play them around the kit as below. This exercise will help you develop your feel of the alternating hand pattern. As always start slow and increment the tempo in small steps.

Exercise 2 lesson024.idsit.02



1	t	1	2	t	1	3	t	1	4	t	1
R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L
L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R

Understanding the Feel of Triplets as 'Compound Time'.

Now, we are going to play a couple of simple Rock Grooves and then play Triplet Eight Notes as a fill around the kit.

This may feel a little awkward as we are mixing straight time with Triplets to develop what is known as Compound Time.

In our first example we play a Quarter Note Groove.

Exercise 3 lesson024.idsit.03



1	t	1	2	t	1	3	t	1	4	t	1
R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L
L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R	L	R

In our second example we will play an Eighth Note Rock Groove and then fill using Triplet Eighth Notes. I would listen very carefully through to the example and be very mindful of the change from Eighth Notes to Triplet Eighth's.

Exercise 4
lesson024.idsit.04



1 t 1 2 t 1 3 t 1 4 t 1
R L R L R L R L R L R L
L R L R L R L R L R L R

Using Triplet Eighths To Develop Timekeeping through control of Subdivisions.

Here we are going to mix all the Subdivisions we know to increase our control of Triplet Eights Notes. In turn this will develop our overall control of Time.

Here we will go through each of the exercises on the Snare Drum.

Exercise 5
lesson024.idsit.05



1 t 1 2 t 1 3 t 1 4 t 1
R L R L R L R L R L R L
L R L R L R L R L R L R

Exercise 6
lesson024.idsit.06



1 t 1 2 t 1 3 t 1 4 t 1
R L R L R L R L R L R L
L R L R L R L R L R L R

Exercise 7
lesson024.idsit.07



1 t 1 2 t 1 3 t 1 4 t 1
R L R L R L R L R L R L
L R L R L R L R L R L R

Incorporating Triplet Eighths into your Fills (Strengthening Control over Subdivisions)

Here we are going to play each of the subdivisions we know as part of series of grooves and fills. The exercises should be played around and around to develop the ability to switch between fills of different subdivisions as smoothly as possible.

Exercise 8 lesson024.idsit.08



The image displays three staves of musical notation for Exercise 8. Each staff begins with a drum set icon and a common time signature (C).
Staff 1 (labeled '1'): Shows a groove of quarter notes (snare, bass, snare, bass) with eighth-note fills (snare, snare, snare, snare) over the first two measures. The third measure has a snare, followed by eighth-note fills (snare, snare, snare, snare) over the fourth measure.
Staff 2 (labeled '5'): Shows a groove of quarter notes (snare, bass, snare, bass) with eighth-note fills (snare, snare, snare, snare) over the first two measures. The third measure has a snare, followed by four triplet eighth-note fills (snare, snare, snare, snare) over the fourth measure.
Staff 3 (labeled '7'): Shows a groove of quarter notes (snare, bass, snare, bass) with eighth-note fills (snare, snare, snare, snare) over the first two measures. The third measure has a snare, followed by four sixteenth-note fills (snare, snare, snare, snare) over the fourth measure.