



Lesson Twenty Five

Gigajam Drum School Lesson 25 IDS TAG

Introducing Triplets-(Part 2) (Triplets as Grooves)

Lesson Objectives

- Understand the concept of **12/8** as a **Time Signature**.

- Introduce the idea of grooves with Triplets as a **Ride Line**.

- Develop some common 12/8

Understanding Triplets in Grooves

(Introducing 12/8)

I would like to start by introducing the idea of **Time Signatures** without getting too involved in all the permutations.

Lets start by looking at the two bars below and discuss the similarities and differences.

Now, the first bar, is in **Common Time** as usual and we have divided each beat into three notes, giving us 4 beats of **Eighth Note Triplets**.

Example One-Common Time Bar



Introducing 12/8 Time

In our second example below, you will notice that we have the same number of notes in the bar. However, you will also notice that we have removed the triplet sign above each group of triplets.

This is because this bar is written in a new Time Signature. Allow me to explain.

Common Time is also referred to as **4/4**. This is because, as we know, a bar of Common Time has 4 beats of 1/4 notes.

So therefore the Time Signature you see at the beginning of the second example, 12/8, means 12 beats of 1/8 notes.

Well, that is exactly what we have, 12, 8th Notes.

Mathematically, these bars are actually identical, but for reasons we will expand upon later in the course, we tend to write in different time signatures for different reasons, largely to do with the feel we are trying to create.

Example Two-12/8 Bar



Using the 'Triplet' feel to develop grooves.

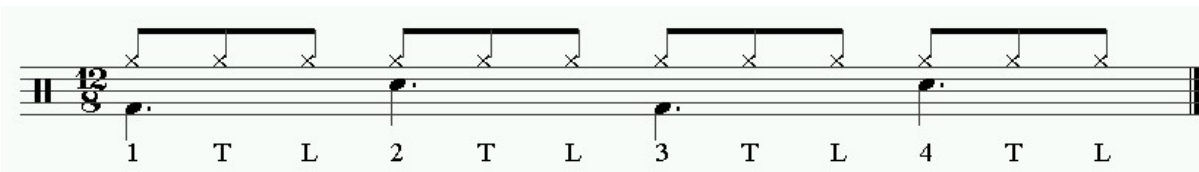
Technically, this first set of grooves are not triplets They are actually **Tuplets** as they are a group of three notes, rather than Triplet Eighth Notes. However, the 'three' feel that you will recognise will sound identical to that of triplet eighths.

The grooves that follow are all traditionally 12/8 grooves. You are much more likely to see them in songs written in 12/8, rather than Common Time with triplets, hence our introduction of 12/8 as a time signature now.

Lets have a look at the basic 12/8 groove which you will find very commonly

Count 1 T L 2 T L 3 T L 4 T L, to give you the back beat feel of the groove.

Exercise 1 lesson025.idstag.01



More 12/8 Grooves

Here are some more examples of 12/8 grooves, typical of the bass drum variations you are likely to come across.

It is important to develop the grooves using all the principles we have applied before.

- Look carefully at the exercises and understand the position of each of the voices and the notes within the bar.
- Play the exercise through slowly and loop around and around.
- Add each voice separately where necessary, building the part up.
- I would start with the Hi hat ride line, counting each note across 1 t | 2 t | etc
- Identify where the Bass Drum falls underneath the Hi Hat part, as it does in each of these examples.
- Once comfortable with the position of the Bass Drum, add the Snare to complete the pattern.
- Develop your control and speed by increasing the tempo gradually.

Exercise 2
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Exercise 3
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Exercise 4
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