

Phrasing-Developing Triplet Phrasing

Lesson Objectives

- Develop **Triplet Phrasing** using Triplet Eighth notes.
- Understand the rules for 'driving' each of the beats in Triplet Phrasing.
- Develop playing Right Hand and Left Hand Accents.
- Develop control of accenting and creation of Triplet phrases as part of a Snare Drum Study.

Understanding How to Phrase Triplets

In part One of the course we introduced the concept of **Phrasing** using 16th notes and single stroke rolls. Now we are going to continue developing phrasing, but this time with Triplets Eighth Notes.

As you will remember, Triplets create an **Alternating Hand Pattern**, so we need to have a look at the rules for Phrasing again, as they are somewhat different when applied to Triplets.

Firstly, in shuffle and swing, we tend to largely avoid the use of the 'trip', as it tends to interrupt the swing feel. So let us look at these triplets and understand how this works.

You will notice that if you ignore the 'trips', as suggested, you have four accenting opportunities for the lead hand (Right Handed exercise shown below).

You can accent the '1' and the 'let' and also the '3' and 'let'. Now try and accent the four right hand notes, as indicated in our first exercise.

Exercise 1

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R L R L R L R L R L R L

1 2 3 4

In our second exercise below, you will see that the non lead hand, left hand in this example, has accenting opportunities on the '2' and 'let' and '4' and 'let'. Try and accent the four left hand notes.

Exercise 2

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R L R L R L R L R L R L

1 2 3 4

Driving the Beats

You will have noticed that the right hand plays the notes within beats 1 and 3 and the left hand plays the notes within beats 2 and 4 (remember ignoring the 'trips').

I therefore tend to say that when phrasing with triplets that:


- Beats 1 and 3 are right Hand driven and,
- Beats 2 and 4 are left hand driven.

Of course again, I am referring to right hand lead. The opposite applies to left hand lead players.

Developing control of Right Hand Phrases (using Triplets)


Here are some examples to help you develop your ability to phrase whilst using Triplet Eighth Notes. We will start by developing the right hand accents firstly.

Accenting the 'Beat'. Exercise 3 lesson027.idsdtp.03



R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 T L 2 T L 3 T L 4 T L

Accenting the 'Let'. Exercise 4 lesson027.idsdtp.04



R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 T L 2 T L 3 T L 4 T L

Developing control of Left Hand Phrases (using Triplets)

The following examples will develop the control required to play left hand phrases whilst playing Triplet Eighths.

Accenting the 'Beat'. Exercise 5 lesson027.idsdtp.05



R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 T L 2 T L 3 T L 4 T L

Accenting the 'Let'. Exercise 6 lesson027.idsdtp.06



R L R L R L R L R L R L
1 T L 2 T L 3 T L 4 T L

