

Swing Triplets

Written by Chester
Tuesday, 25 October 2011 11:06 -

Swing Triplet Exercises

Chester Thompson

Hi-hat on 2 & 4

The image contains three musical staves for drum set exercises. Each staff is in 4/4 time and features a hi-hat pattern on beats 2 and 4. The first staff, labeled 'Drum Set', shows a kick drum pattern with eighth notes and triplets on beats 1, 2, 3, and 4. The second staff, labeled 'D. S.', shows a snare drum pattern with eighth notes and triplets on beats 1, 2, 3, and 4. The third staff, also labeled 'D. S.', shows a snare drum pattern with eighth notes and triplets on beats 1, 2, 3, and 4, with a different triplet placement on the snare.

These are basic patterns between kick and snare that are designed to begin to get you accustomed to the kinds of figures you will encounter in playing jazz. The ride cymbal is to be played exactly as written in each exercise and the hi-hat is to be played on 2 & 4 at all times as well.

I will repeat that this is a basic introduction and it should not be assumed that these "rules" will always apply. The last line is not so typical but is still important in develop the independence and coordination that will help you to become comfortable in playing jazz or "swing". Please note the difference in the ride cymbal pattern in the last line.

A slight accent on the ride cymbal on 2 & 4 along with the hi-hat will make it start to swing. As you play more you will find your own signature feel but this is a good place to start.

1999 Chester C. Thompson