

Push Beats

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In this lesson I'll teach you how to play push beats from a swing jazz feel. A push beat is a method of ending a phrase or pattern on an "upbeat" of the measure. It's an approach used by many jazz musicians to create a little more excitement in their playing. Play the push by accenting the ride cymbal using the tip or shoulder of the stick to get somewhat of a splashy sound. In this first example the push comes on the upbeat of the 4th count of the first measure.

♩ = 160 - 212

1.

Push Beat

Now let's add the bass drum to the push. Be sure to continue to accent the cymbal when adding the bass drum to the push.

2.

For this example, add the snare drum to the push. Play an accented note on the snare, but don't over do it.

3.

Now we'll play a push at the end of every measure.

4.

Push Beats - Page 2

Practice adding a bass drum, then a snare drum to each push. Once you are comfortable with each, practice alternating them.

5.

We'll play multiple pushes on the following examples

6.

7.

8.

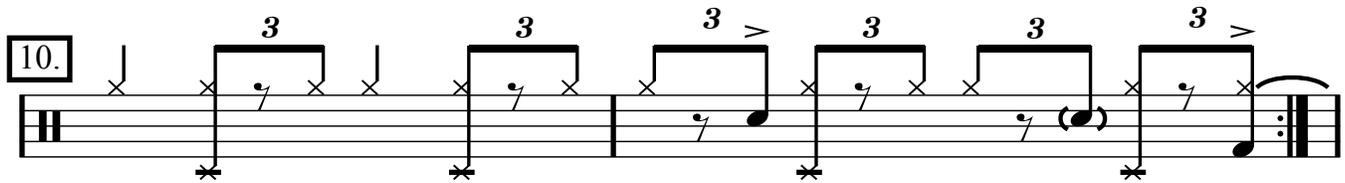
9.

Push Beats - Page 3

Let's set up the pushes using some comping patterns. Notice the ghost notes (●) just before the pushes in ex's 10, 11 and 12.

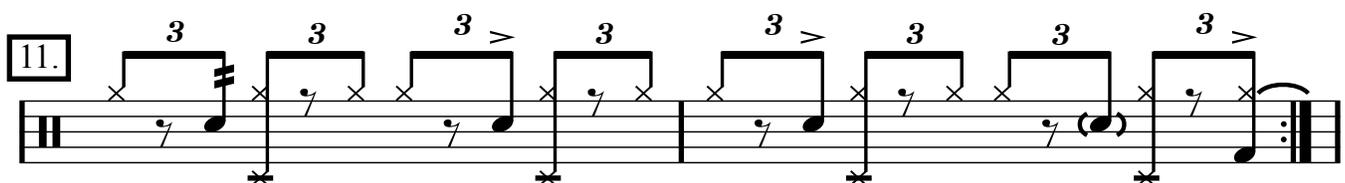
♩ = 165

10.



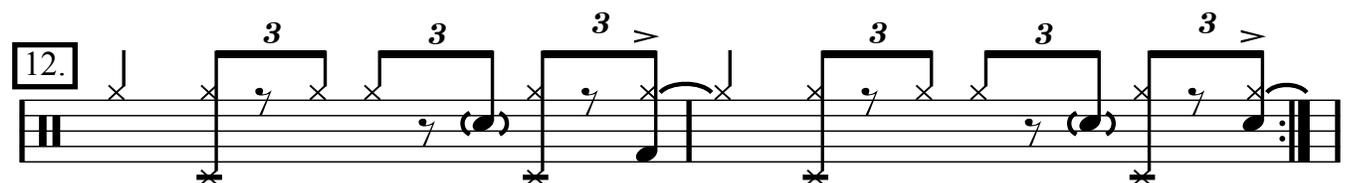
Musical notation for exercise 10, showing a sequence of six triplets on a guitar staff. Each triplet consists of three eighth notes. The first two triplets are followed by a quarter rest. The third triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note (●) on the same string. The fourth and fifth triplets are followed by quarter notes with ghost notes. The sixth triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The exercise ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

11.



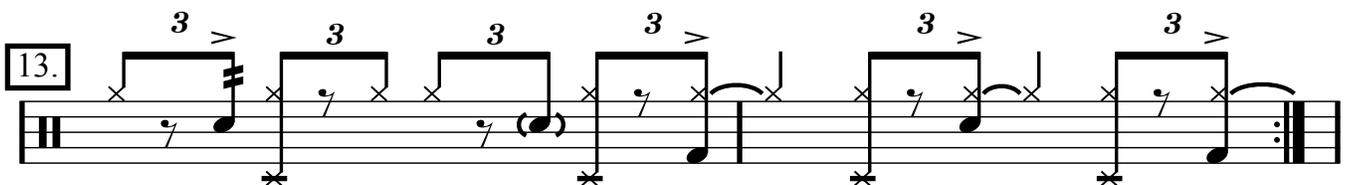
Musical notation for exercise 11, showing a sequence of eight triplets on a guitar staff. The first two triplets are followed by quarter notes with ghost notes. The third triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The fourth triplet is followed by a quarter rest. The fifth triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The sixth and seventh triplets are followed by quarter notes with ghost notes. The eighth triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The exercise ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

12.



Musical notation for exercise 12, showing a sequence of six triplets on a guitar staff. The first triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The second triplet is followed by a quarter rest. The third triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The fourth triplet is followed by a quarter rest. The fifth triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The sixth triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The exercise ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

13.



Musical notation for exercise 13, showing a sequence of six triplets on a guitar staff. The first triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The second triplet is followed by a quarter rest. The third triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The fourth triplet is followed by a quarter rest. The fifth triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The sixth triplet is followed by a quarter note with a ghost note. The exercise ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.