

***This lesson is excerpted from "A Fresh Approach to the Drum Set"***

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A FRESH APPROACH TO THE  
**DRUMSET**



**A DRUMMER'S GUIDE TO:**

Rock Beats and Fills • Hand & Foot Technique • Coordination and Independence • Reading Music •  
Understanding Song Construction • R&B, Jazz & Latin Styles and more!

BY

**MARK WESSELS**  
with **STANTON MOORE**



**INCLUDES  
DOWNLOADABLE  
PLAY-ALONG  
TRACKS!**

## 8th Note Triplets in Quarter Time

An 8th note triplet is defined as “three 8th notes in the space of two.”

In quarter time, 8th notes subdivide the beat into two parts (there are two 8th notes per count):

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

8th note TRIPLETS would subdivide the beat into THREE parts (three 8th notes per count):

1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a

Practice this exercise to learn to space 8th notes and 8th note triplets evenly:

Count: 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a

## Style Essential: The Shuffle

The Shuffle, like the 2 beat, is a groove rhythm that has been adapted to many musical styles. The shuffle rhythm is built upon the 1st and 3rd note of a triplet:

Practice this exercise on your right hand, then with the left. As you speed up, “whip” the wrist for the accent.

## Shuffle Grooves



The key to playing a great shuffle is in the feel – not the notes! The only way to master this style is to spend time listening to great shuffles by the masters! Shuffles by the legendary B.B. King are a great place to start.

## “T-BONE SHUFFLE”



A Play 12 melody (2xs) B 12 guitar solo (4xs) C 12 melody (2xs)

## Technique Focus: Swing Sticking Patterns

To reinforce the shuffle rhythm, try playing all the sticking pattern exercises you've learned with a swing feel.

For example, a paradiddle sticking becomes:

and:

## Style Essential: Texas Shuffle



The Texas Shuffle uses a dotted 8th/16th rhythm instead of a triplet. This "delayed" double beat gives it a more laid-back feel than a typical triplet shuffle. Work towards getting a tight spacing of the double beat, with as loud of a backbeat rimshot as you can on the whip stroke! Listen to the music of Stevie Ray Vaughn for some great Texas Shuffles.

## Style Essential: Rock Shuffle



A rock shuffle is usually played with a heavy quarter note ride, with the bass drum and snare implying the shuffle rhythm. The ghost note after beat 1 and 3 provides a busier feel to the groove, which helps to propel the motion.

## "ZZ SHUFFLE"



## ***ABOUT THIS LESSON:***

Lesson 28 is the fourth of five lessons on jazz fundamentals. Lesson 25 deals with basic swing grooves and fills, 26 is all about comping under the ride, 27 gets into setting up ensemble figures, and Lesson 28 deals with more complicated ensemble figures. When writing the book, it struck me that many others deal with setting up an initial ensemble entrance, but none deal with filling around figures AFTER the entrance. Also important are learning ensemble articulations so that you can orchestrate note lengths with the various sounds on the drumset.

Included are two sound files to practice some sample figures (#4 – a two measure phrase and #9 – a four measure phrase). In these sound files, you'll play time with a bass player, then set up and fill around the figures played by the pianist.

The full play along track is a typical small group chart. As with all jazz, there is no set "drum part" – what you play is completely up to you. Feel free to copy some of the licks that Donny Gruendler plays on the track with drums, or make up your own!

Good luck and have fun!

Mark Wessels

# Table of Contents

PREFACE .....	4-7	LESSON TWELVE .....	34-35
How to Use the Book/CD, Note Values Chart, Drumset Notation Key, Notation Elements		3/4 Time Signatures, Grooves in 3/4 Time, Rudiment: Flam, Fills in 3/4 Time, Music Reading: 1st & 2nd Endings, Play-along Track: "Horseback Waltz"	
LEARN ABOUT THE INSTRUMENT .....	8-9	LESSON THIRTEEN .....	36-37
SETTING UP THE DRUMS.....	11	Music Reading: Dotted Notes, Style: Halftime Feel, Halftime Grooves, Play-along Track: "Halftime Show", Technique: Accented Paradiddles, Paradiddle Grooves	
LESSON ONE:.....	12-13	LESSON FOURTEEN .....	38-39
Gripping the Sticks, The Rebound Stroke, Rudiments: Singles, Doubles, Paradiddle		Syncopated 8th Note Beats, Syncopated Combos, Technique: Single Hand Accent, Play-along Track: "Synco de Mayo"	
LESSON TWO:.....	14-15	LESSON FIFTEEN .....	40-41
Sticking Patterns, Bass Drum Technique, Hi-Hat Pedal Technique		Music Reading: Sixteenth Notes, 16th Note Grooves, 16th Note Fills, Technique: Grid Diddles, Style: Rock Ballad	
LESSON THREE.....	16-17	LESSON SIXTEEN .....	42-43
Right Hand Hi-Hat Technique, First Rock Beat, Music Notation Basics		Music Reading: 8th/16th Rhythmic Combinations, Syncopated LH 16th Grooves, Technique: Accent Grid, Syncopated BD 16ths, Style: Syncopated Rock	
LESSON FOUR .....	18-19	LESSON SEVENTEEN .....	44-45
Music Reading: Quarter/Half/Whole, The Ride Cymbal, Play-along Track: "Rock Steady"		Music Reading: 16th Rests, Dotted 8ths, 16th Based Rhythmic Permutations, 16th Beat Combos, Rudiment: The Ruff, Style: 8th Note Funk	
LESSON FIVE .....	20-21	LESSON EIGHTEEN .....	46-47
8th Notes, 8th Note Rock Beats, Music Reading: Quarters and 8ths, Play-along Track: "Solid as a Rock"		Syncopated 16th Note Grooves, 16th Open Hi-Hat Combos, Syncopated Fills, Style: 16th Note Funk	
LESSON SIX.....	22-23	LESSON NINETEEN .....	48-49
New 8th Note Rock Beats, Technique: Independence, The Crash Cymbal, Play-along Track: "8 Ball in the Corner"		Technique: Controlled Rebound, Play-along Track: "Slow Motion", Rudiment: Flam Tap, Style: Train Beat, Rudiment: Lesson 25, 6 & 7 Stroke Rolls	
LESSON SEVEN.....	24-25	LESSON TWENTY .....	50-51
The Toms, New Beats Using the Toms, Rudiment: Multiple Bounce Roll, Play-along Track: "Jungle Drums"		Music Reading: 12/8 Time Signature, 12/8 Grooves, Technique: Accented 3's, 12/8 Fills, Style: 12/8 Blues	
LESSON EIGHT .....	26-27	LESSON TWENTY ONE .....	52-53
Drum Fills, Concepts: Sustaining Momentum, Play-along Track: "Solid Time"		Triple Sticking Patterns, 12/8 Reading, Triple Combos, Triple Hi-Hat Combos, Play-along Track: "Crooked Stick Blues"	
LESSON NINE .....	28-29	LESSON TWENTY TWO .....	54-55
Open Hi-Hat Sounds, Rudiment: 5 Stroke Roll, 8th Note Combos, Cross Stick, Play-along Track: "Spy Games"		Music Reading: 16th Notes in Triple Time, 12/8 Grooves Incorporating 16th Notes, Technique: 12/8 Accent Patterns, 12/8 Fills with 16ths, Style: 12/8 Rock	
LESSON TEN.....	30-31		
Quarter Note Ride Pattern, Technique: Independence, Style: Two Beat, Play-along Track: "Two Bits", Technique: Tap, Down and Up Strokes, Time Check			
LESSON ELEVEN .....	32-33		
Music Reading: 8th Rests, Upbeat Ride Pattern, Style: Disco, Fills Using the 8th Rest, Play-along Track: "Build it Up"			

LESSON TWENTY THREE .....	56-57
Music Reading: 8th Note Triplets, Style: Blues Shuffle, Technique: Swing Sticking, Style: Texas Shuffle, Style: Rock Shuffle	
LESSON TWENTY FOUR.....	58-59
Technique: Controlled Rebound, Part 2, Style: Halftime Shuffle, Play-along Track: "Backstreet Shuffle", Rudiment: Swiss Army Triplet, Music Reading: 16th Note Triplets, Style: Hip Hop, Play-along Track: "Go Dog"	
LESSON TWENTY FIVE.....	60-61
Style: Jazz Swing, Technique: Triplet Accents, Jazz Fills, Technique: Swing Accent Patterns, Play-along Track: "Swingin' Easy"	
LESSON TWENTY SIX .....	62-63
Jazz Comping, Technique: Independence	
LESSON TWENTY SEVEN .....	64-65
Setting Up Ensemble Entrances, Incorporating Fills, Technique: Paradiddle-diddle/6 Stroke Rolls, Play-along Track: "Kick it Old School"	
LESSON TWENTY EIGHT.....	66-67
Catching Ensemble Figures, Music Reading: Ensemble Articulations, Technique: Independence, Jazz Chart Reading: Small Group	
LESSON TWENTY NINE.....	68-69
Style: Jazz Waltz, Brush Technique, Jazz Ballad	
LESSON THIRTY.....	70-71
Afro Cuban Style: Cha-Cha, Son Clavé, Bass Tumbao, Guiro, Cha-Cha Bell Pattern, Conga Tumbao	
LESSON THIRTY ONE.....	72-73
Timbale Abaniquo, Play-along Track: "Time to Cha-Cha," Music Reading: Cut Time, Style: Mambo, Cascara, Conga Tumbao, Mambo Bell Pattern	
LESSON THIRTY TWO.....	74-75
Rhumba Clavé, Play-along Track: "Mambo Caliente," Style: Songo, Play-along Track: "Songo Mondo"	
LESSON THIRTY THREE.....	76-77
Brazilian Style: Bossa Nova, Play-along Track: "Bossa Breeze," Style: Samba, Play-along Track: "Escola de Samba"	
LESSON THIRTY FOUR .....	78-79
Caribbean Style: Calypso, Play-along Track, "Caribbean Nights," Style: Soca, Play-along Track, "Soca Dance Party," Style: Reggae, Play-along Track, "One Drop Reggae"	

READING APPENDIX.....	80-93
DUPLE/TRIPLE STICKING COMBINATIONS ..	94-95
ACCENT PATTERNS .....	96-97
RUDIMENT CHART .....	98-99
MUSICAL GLOSSARY .....	100-101

## *Play-Along Tracks: Index by Styles*

### ROCK / POP / COUNTRY STYLES

Basic Rock .....	16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 33
Disco .....	24
Two Beat .....	32
Country Waltz .....	35
Halftime Feels.....	38
Syncopated Rock.....	41, 45
16th Note Rock .....	42
Train Beat .....	51
12/8 Rock.....	57
Rock Shuffle .....	59

### R&B / FUNK / HIP-HOP

Funk.....	47, 49, 51
12/8 Blues .....	53, 55
Blues Shuffle .....	58
Texas Shuffle .....	59
Halftime Shuffle .....	60
Hip Hop (Go-Go).....	61

### JAZZ

Swing.....	63, 67, 69
Jazz Waltz .....	71
Jazz Ballad.....	71

### LATIN STYLES

Cha-Cha.....	74
Mambo .....	76
Songo .....	77
Bossa Nova.....	78
Samba.....	79
Calypso .....	80
Soca .....	81
Reggae.....	81

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