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Berklee College of Music

Instant Drumset

Ron Savage

Lesson 7

Funk



Press ESC to cancel sound.

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Lesson Seven Funk

Syncopated notes are played off the beat—when you say “and,” not when you say a number. Here is a bass drum part where there is a syncopation on the “and” of beat 3. At beat 3, there is an *eighth-note rest* (7), which lasts for half a beat.

39 Listen

Listen to the recorded beat, and then try to play along with this bass drum part.

BASS DRUM

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Syncopation

Making the Beat

40 For each step, listen, practice, and then play along with the recording.

- Start with the hi-hat.

HI-HAT

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

- Add the syncopated bass drum part you have been practicing. It has a syncopation off beat 3.

HI-HAT

BASS DRUM

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

- Add the snare drum part. It has a syncopation off beat 2. The snare also plays right on beat 4.

HI-HAT

SNARE DRUM

BASS DRUM

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

“J.B.’s Thing”

41 1. Listen

Listen to how the bass drum and bass guitar sound together.

42 2. Play

When playing syncopated eighth notes, be sure to keep the tempo steady.

J.B.’s THING

FUNK

HI-HAT
SNARE DRUM
BASS DRUM

The musical notation shows a 4/4 funk rhythm. The Hi-Hat part consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern: x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x. The Snare Drum part has a backbeat pattern: : | : | : | : | : | : | : | :. The Bass Drum part features a syncopated eighth-note pattern: : | : | : | : | : | : | : | :.

Tip: Practice any new beat at different tempos (speeds). First, practice it very slowly. Then gradually, speed it up until it is as fast as you can play it without making any mistakes.

“Jabo”

43 1. Listen

This tune has the same beat, but it is at a faster tempo. The bass and drums keep the groove locked in.

44 2. Play

When you play at faster tempos, be sure your body is relaxed.

JABO

FUNK

HI-HAT
SNARE DRUM
BASS DRUM

The musical notation shows a 4/4 funk groove. The Hi-Hat part consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern: x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x. The Snare Drum part has a backbeat pattern: : | : | : | : | : | : | : | :. The Bass Drum part has a pattern: : | : | : | : | : | : | : | :. The notation is written on three staves with a 4/4 time signature and a repeat sign at the end.