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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 image shows a musical score for a funk rhythm. It consists of three staves: Hi-Hat, Snare Drum, and Bass Drum. The Hi-Hat part is a continuous eighth-note pattern. The Snare Drum part has a syncopated eighth-note pattern. The Bass Drum part has a syncopated eighth-note pattern. The word "FUNK" is written above the first staff. The notation includes a 4/4 time signature, a repeat sign, and a double bar line at the end.

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 image shows a musical score for a funk groove. It consists of three staves: Hi-Hat, Snare Drum, and Bass Drum. The Hi-Hat staff has a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The Snare Drum staff has a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The Bass Drum staff has a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat. The Hi-Hat part consists of a series of eighth notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern. The Snare Drum part consists of a series of eighth notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern. The Bass Drum part consists of a series of eighth notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern. The word 'FUNK' is written above the Hi-Hat staff.