

DOUBLE BASS DRUM SHUFFLES WITH FILL-INS

TO SOME, DOUBLE BASS DRUM SHUFFLES MIGHT SEEM LIKE A BLAST FROM THE PAST. PERSONALLY I THINK IT'S A SHAME SO FEW OF TODAY'S BANDS ARE UTILIZING THESE GROOVES ANYMORE. WHEN I WAS A KID STARTING WITH THE DRUMS, DOUBLE BASS DRUM SHUFFLES WERE HIPPER THAN ANYTHING. ME AND MY FRIENDS WOULD WATCH TAPES (VHS BACK THEN) FEATURING DRUMMERS LIKE SIMON PHILLIPS, GREGG BISSONETTE, ALEX VAN HALEN AND BILLY COBHAM PLAYING THESE COOL SHUFFLE-GROOVES UTILIZING TWO BASS DRUMS. WELL, OF COURSE WE HAD TO FIGURE OUT WHAT ON EARTH THEY WERE DOING SO WE COULD BE AS HIP AS THEY WERE.

MOST DRUMMERS PLAY THESE SHUFFLE PATTERNS BY LAYING DOWN QUARTER-NOTES WITH THE LEFT FOOT, AND THEN "FILLING IN" THE REST OF THE NOTES WITH THE RIGHT FOOT (FIG. 1).



THIS WORKS FINE IF YOU PLAY THE SAME PATTERN THROUGHOUT THE SONG. THE TROUBLE STARTS WHEN YOU NEED TO CHANGE INTO A DIFFERENT GROOVE. THIS IS BECAUSE YOU'RE PLAYING THE BASS DRUM SHUFFLE WITH THE LEFT FOOT LEADING, AND THEN SUDDENLY, YOU'VE GOT TO CHANGE TO RIGHT-FOOT-LEAD (FIG. 2).



ANOTHER THING THAT'S IMPRACTICAL TO DO IF YOU USE THE ALTERNATING LEFT-RIGHT-LEFT-RIGHT FOOTING IS TO PLAY SMALL "FLURRIES" OF FASTER NOTES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SHUFFLE PATTERN. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU WANT TO PLAY A "FLURRY" AT THE MIDDLE OF EACH BAR, IT MESSES UP YOUR FOOTINGS (FIG. 3).



I BET YOU NOTICED HOW YOUR FOOTING CHANGED FROM LEFT-FOOT-LEAD TO RIGHT-FOOT-LEAD AFTER EACH OF THE "FLURRIES".

THERE IS A SIMPLE SYSTEM THAT I USE TO KEEP MY FOOTINGS CONSTANT WHILE I PLAY. THIS ENABLES ME TO INSERT THESE "FLURRIES" WHEREVER AND WHENEVER I WANT. AND ON TOP OF THAT, THIS SYSTEM DOESN'T RESTRICT THE LENGTH OF THE "FLURRIES", BUT FREES UP YOUR FEET TO PLAY ALL THE COOL PATTERNS YOU HEAR IN YOUR HEAD.

THE IDEA IS SIMPLE. PLAY STRAIGHT SIXTEENTH-NOTE TRIPLETS WITH YOUR FEET, WHILE PLAYING A BASIC BEAT WITH YOUR HANDS (FIG. 4).



THEN, TO TURN THIS INTO A SHUFFLE PATTERN, GET RID OF THE SUPERFLUOUS NOTES. (FIG. 5A & 5B)

FIG. 5A

FIG. 5B

I PAINTED THE SUPERFLUOUS NOTES RED TO SAVE YOU SOME TIME. NOW GET RID OF THEM.

AND HERE'S WHAT YOU GET.

AS THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES WILL PROVE, THIS FOOTING ALLOWS YOU TO EASILY INSERT "FLURRIES" ANYWHERE YOU WANT WITHOUT MESSING UP YOUR FOOTINGS. SO LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.

THE EXERCISES

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.