

Introduction

Writing this book started as a very modest task. The idea was to put together some exercises for my students of all levels as to save time during courses (by me not having to write exercises during the lessons), and to put in the hands of the students a variety of options and more comprehensive exercises.

And then, as many projects in life, it took a life of its own, and as the writing progressed, it became obvious that it was taking the form of a book. A book that hopefully will help many drummers progress, advance in their craft, or simply help them enjoy playing some nice and cool rhythms.

This book's intention is not to cover all subjects of drumming, nor try to show all the steps from beginning to expert drumming. It is comprised of a variety of methods that I believe can take a drummer of any level to his/her next level. Beginners will learn the basics of reading and playing grooves. Mid-level players can strengthen their basics and then go on to the more difficult parts of the book to develop their skills to become better drummers. And for you high-level players – you can repeat some basics and will find some unique and challenging rhythms in this book.

The book is divided in 3 main types of exercises – grooves, notes reading and worlds (important subjects) – and the 3 are mixed through out the book, in a linear way – when possible – from basics to advanced drumming. Almost every page goes from the basic in the beginning to the more advanced and challenging material towards the end of it. Beginners and mid-level players – don't worry about finishing every page till its end – you can skip exercises that are not yet clear to you – and return when you improved your skills later on in the book.

The lessons are built in a manner that you can go in the order that suits you.

I recommend to use it with a teacher for better learning, and if you are an autodidact, I would recommend that you take a lesson with a teacher from time to time, just to make sure you are going in the right direction.

The pages in this book were kept to a few by making each one dense in material. They can be played in many and varied ways: Slow and fast. Strong and quiet. With a metronome, or without. Improvising, or not. Or mixing some of the previous. Don't run, every measure is a complete world to investigate and discover. Don't hesitate to add your own ideas (with a pencil!) to what is already there.

The R (right hand) and L (left hand) are a recommendation which I advise to follow. The book is written with right-handed drummers in mind. Left-handed drummers will have to work with their brains (and we know that scientists proved drummers are always the most intelligent people in the group...), to play the opposite as written, and I know you will get used to it fast, and that allows us to have less written things on the pages, keeping clarity in the exercises.

For the same reason you will notice that marks of "rests" are not necessarily written, except where the signs are necessary to understand the right way of playing.

Most fills (breaks) in the book are written as Snare notes, (with some exceptions). Feel free to divide them as you wish on the drum set. Same for the hi-hat and the ride cymbal. Grooves will be mostly written on the hi-hat, but feel free to do the same on the ride.

I hope you will enjoy this book and find it useful,
and now, enough said

let's play!

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Quarter and eighth notes reading ex.

Play each line several times until you are comfortable with. Try counting the quarter and the 8th notes as shown in the examples, and then try it out without counting (just seeing the notes and feeling the beat).

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* Note for the sticking of these exercises – every time we are playing 2 or 4 8th notes – it will be played always in the order – R L, as shown in the examples.