

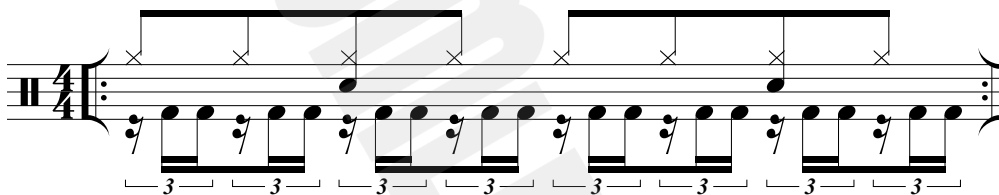
Triplet Bass Drum Lick

(John Bonham / Dennis Chambers style)

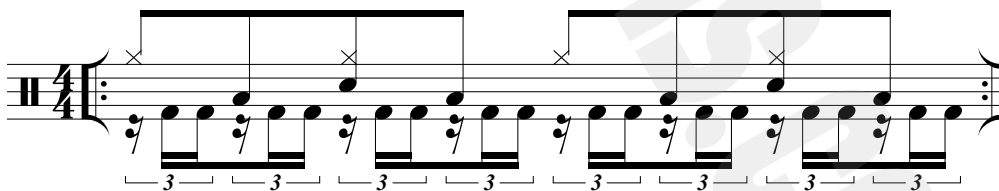


Here's a cool 16th note triplet lick played between hi-hat and bass drum. Though lots of drummers have used this lick, I'd say it's most often associated with John Bonham & Dennis Chambers. You can hear John Bonham playing the lick on the song "Good Times Bad Times" by Led Zeppelin. Dennis Chambers can be heard using the lick on "Blue Matter" from John Scofield's album "Blue Matter" and "City Living" from Victor Bailey's album "Low Blow".

- Ex.1 Play 8ths on your hi-hat, add a backbeat on your snare drum, then evenly space two bass drum notes between your hi-hat 8ths to form 16th note triplets.



- Ex.2 It can also sound effective to alternate between your hi-hat and floor tom with your lead hand.



- Start out slow striving for an even, consistent flow of notes. This lick can also prove to be a useful exercise if you're generally not fluent at playing double notes on a single bass pedal. Once you can play the lick at a reasonable tempo start applying it to your grooves. Keep in mind that you don't have to play the lick for a whole bar, smaller "blocks" of this lick might allow you to apply it more musically.

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- Ex.3 If you own a double bass pedal, or two bass drums, you can further develop this lick by playing the 8th note pulse, previously on hi-hat, on your left bass pedal instead.

L R R R L R R

- Ex.4 Next, reintroduce a “2 & 4” snare backbeat along with 8ths on your ride cymbal. If you have an alternate pair of fixed/closed hi-hats on your kit you can of course use instead of your ride.

L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R

- Ex.5 This double bass foot pattern also offers a great opportunity to “cross-step” the hi-hat & left bass pedal. As your left foot is playing constant 8ths you've got the choice to play them on the hi-hat pedal, left bass pedal or both!

L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R

- Ex.6 Here's our new “cross-stepping” double bass groove written out in full with the hands.

L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R