

Ghost Notes

Pt.2 - Swung 8th Feel



The following exercises are designed to help you incorporate ghost notes into your playing. Ghost notes are quiet, subtle notes that can be added to grooves and fills to "thicken" your sound. They can add another dimension to your drumming by creating "texture" and "flow".

Unlike graces notes which are the quiet notes used, for example, in flams and drags, ghost notes have an exact placement in time that can be clearly notated.

Using a simple 4/4 shuffle groove, bass on 1 & 3 and a snare backbeat on 2 & 4, let's start working on some different ghost note placements...

The image displays 14 numbered musical exercises (1-14) for ghost notes in a 4/4 shuffle groove. Each exercise is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The exercises are organized into two columns of seven. Each exercise consists of a four-measure phrase. The first measure of each phrase contains a bass drum note on the first beat and a snare drum note on the second beat. The remaining three measures of each phrase contain a bass drum note on the first and third beats and a snare drum note on the second and fourth beats. The exercises vary in the placement of ghost notes (indicated by 'x' marks) on the snare and bass lines. Exercises 1-4 show ghost notes on the snare on beats 2 and 4. Exercises 5-8 show ghost notes on the snare on beats 1 and 3. Exercises 9-12 show ghost notes on the snare on beats 2 and 4, and on the bass on beats 1 and 3. Exercises 13-14 show ghost notes on the snare on beats 1 and 3, and on the bass on beats 2 and 4. Each exercise is numbered in a circle at the beginning of the phrase.

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32 numbered musical staves (15-32) for drum practice. Each staff contains a 4-measure rhythmic exercise with triplet ghost notes. The exercises are arranged in pairs (15-16, 17-18, 19-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32) across 16 rows. Each exercise consists of four measures of music. The first two measures of each exercise feature a triplet of eighth notes on the snare drum, with the second and third notes being ghost notes (marked with an 'x'). The final two measures of each exercise feature a triplet of eighth notes on the bass drum, with the second and third notes being ghost notes (marked with an 'x'). The exercises are numbered 15 through 32, with the number in a circle at the beginning of each staff.