

DRUMMING 101

THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES WILL HELP THE ASPIRING MUSICIAN LEARN THE BASIC BUILDING BLOCKS FOR READING MUSIC, CULTIVATE A SENSE OF TIME-KEEPING, AND DEVELOP BASIC HAND COORDINATION FOR SUCCESSFUL DRUMMING.

BEGIN BY MEMORIZING THE COMMON NOTES AND RESTS. PRACTICE CLAPPING AND COUNTING OUT LOUD

WHOLE NOTE

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

WHOLE REST-COUNT BUT DON'T CLAP

HALF NOTES

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

HALF RESTS

QUARTER NOTES

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

QUARTER RESTS

EIGHTH NOTES

+ = AND, THE PLUS SYMBOL IS COUNTED "AND"...ONE-AND-TWO-AND, ETC...

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

EIGHTH RESTS

SIXTEENTH NOTES

1 E + A 2 E + A 3 E + A 4 E + A

1 E + A...

TRIPLETS

1 TRIP LET 2 TRIP LET 3 TRIP LET 4 TRIP LET

3 3 3 3


CUE CARDS ARE A GOOD IDEA! TRY PRACTICING TO A METRONOME AFTER THE NOTES ARE LEARNED AND CLAPPING/COUNTING OUT LOUD IS MASTERED.

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TIMING PRACTICE----PUT ON SOME MUSIC. ANY GENRE WILL DO BUT MAKE SURE IT IS IN 4/4 TIME (FOR NOW)
CLAP THE FOLLOWING NOTES AND PATTERNS ALONG TO THE MUSIC...

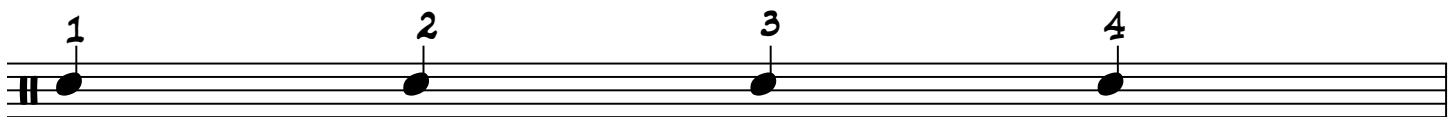
FINDING "ONE" CLAP WHOLE NOTES. IT IS CRITICAL TO KNOW WHERE ONE IS IN THE MUSIC. THIS IS WHERE THE PHRASES START OVER. DEVELOPING THE ABILITY TO FEEL THIS PART OF THE MUSIC IS THE FIRST THING TO PRACTICE.

COUNT...



CLAP

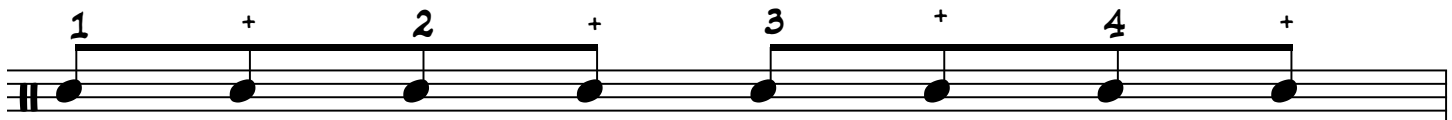
DOWNBEATS..."THE PULSE" CLAP QUARTER NOTES AND DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO KEEP TIME...



BACKBEATS...COUNTING THE DOWNBEATS, BUT CLAPPING ONLY ON 2 AND 4 IS AN IMPORTANT TIMING SKILL...



EIGHTH NOTES...NOW CLAP AND COUNT THESE NOTES ALONG TO THE MUSIC...



UPBEATS...BY COUNTING EIGHTH NOTES BUT ONLY CLAPPING ON THE ANDS WILL CREATE AN "UPBEAT" FEELING...



TRY COUNTING AND CLAPPING SIXTEENTH NOTES TOO. SOME SONGS WILL REQUIRE COUNTING TRIPLETS.
MAKE SURE TO PRACTICE THIS EXERCISE TO SONGS OF MANY DIFFERENT TEMPOS.

HAND COORDINATION----THIS EXERCISE IS DESIGNED TO HELP DEVELOP DEXTERITY, SPEED, AND CONTROL OF THE STICKS

SINGLE STROKE: RIGHT LEFT RIGHT LEFT, ETC...HIT THE DRUM WITH THE RIGHT STICK THEN THE LEFT AND CONTINUE

DOUBLE STROKE: RIGHT RIGHT LEFT LEFT, ETC...KEEP THE STROKES EVEN PLAY TWO WITH EACH HAND

PARADIDDLE: RIGHT LEFT RIGHT RIGHT LEFT RIGHT LEFT LEFT...KEEP IT EVEN, THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT PATTERN

START SLOW! GRADUALLY SPEED UP, TRY TO MAINTAIN A FAST SPEED, GRADUALLY SLOW BACK DOWN. PLAY EACH FOR ONE MINUTE.