

THE INDEPENDENT
DRUMMER

SAMPLER



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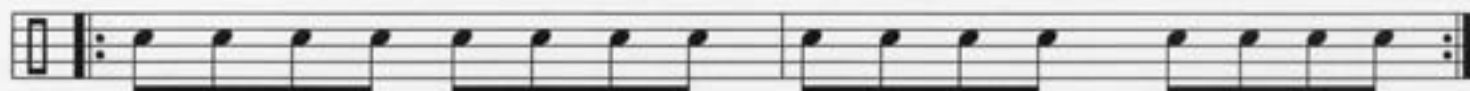
The Independent Drummer

CHAPTER 1

After a career as a professional drummer and instructor that has spanned twenty-five years, it has become clear to me that one of the most difficult aspects of playing the drumset has to do with independence. What I mean by independence is this: the ability to play an ostinato (a one or two measure rhythm that repeats indefinitely) with one or two limbs, while playing ideas with the other limbs over the ostinato. No matter the style, whether it be rock or jazz, afro-cuban or brasilian, funk or calypso, you will encounter independence issues which require practice to be able to execute all of the parts together. The following exercises will give you a system of practice with which to gain mastery of independence on the drumset. In this book, you will find many different ostinatos which will be organized by letters starting with letter A. You will also find 240 different rhythmic patterns, each consisting of one measure, organized by numbers. There are endless ways of applying these rhythms as we will explore shortly. The goal, no matter what application you are practicing, is to play each independence pattern four times over a particular ostinato, then move to the next pattern without stopping until you reach the end and have played all 240 patterns. As mentioned earlier, there are many ways and styles of applying these rhythmic patterns. We will start with jazz and a basic swing rhythm as the ostinato.

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A note about interpreting jazz eighth notes. The swing ostinato has a triplet feel as opposed to a straight eighth note feel. So you must interpret the eighth notes in the independence patterns accordingly. For example:



would be interpreted and played like this:



Here is another example:



Would be interpreted like this:



A

In this first application, I would like you to start out by playing the independence patterns on the snare drum along with the swing ostinato. See example below:

Pattern # 8

The musical notation for Pattern # 8 consists of three staves: cym (cymbal), hh (hi-hat), and sd (snare drum). The cym and hh staves show a series of eighth notes with triplet markings (3) and down-bow/brush strokes. The sd staff shows a swing ostinato pattern of eighth notes with triplet markings (3).

As mentioned earlier, play all 240 patterns with above ostinato, each one four times, until you reach the end. If you encounter a pattern that is giving you problems, stop and practice that particular pattern until you have mastered it, then move on the next one.

B

In this application, play all of the patterns on the bass drum with the swing ostinato.

Pattern # 9

The musical notation for Pattern # 9 consists of three staves: cym (cymbal), hh (hi-hat), and bd (bass drum). The cym and hh staves show a series of eighth notes with triplet markings (3) and down-bow/brush strokes. The bd staff shows a swing ostinato pattern of eighth notes with triplet markings (3).

(Remember to swing the eighth notes.)

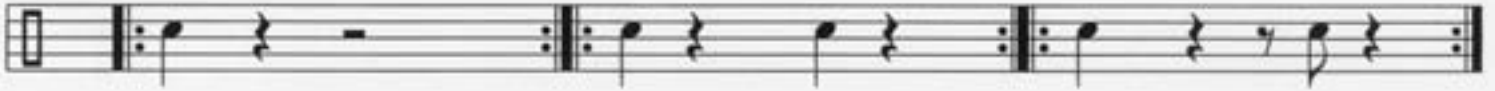
CHAPTER SIX

INDEPENDENCE PATTERNS

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