

# Linear triplet fills

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Below are some fill ideas based on the common linear triplet - so popularized by many drummers of the seventies through to today.

Example 1 shows the triplet starting with kick drum and accenting every third left on the snare to give a nice dynamic fill.

Example 1 musical notation: A drum staff showing a linear triplet fill. The pattern is: R L 6. R L . R L 6. R L . R L 6. R L . R L 6. R L. The '6.' indicates a triplet of sixteenth notes. Accents (>) are placed over the first and third notes of each triplet.

Example 2 - Here the same pattern is used except a crash or china is placed on every beat creating a 'pull-off' to the floor tom - a Tony Williams trademark! the last left is also accented on the snare.

Example 2 musical notation: Similar to Example 1, but with a crash or china symbol (x) on the first note of each triplet and a floor tom symbol (o) on the second note. The pattern is: R R L 6. R R L . R R L 6. R R L . R R L 6. R R L . R R L 6. R R L. Accents (>) are placed over the first and third notes of each triplet.

Example 3 - Expanding on the previous example further, we take the kick drum out on every beat but keep the right double which ghosts on the snare to create a fill with some nice syncopated accents.

Example 3 musical notation: A drum staff with a triplet of eighth notes on the snare (L) and a triplet of eighth notes on the snare (R). The pattern is: R R L 6. R L R R L 6. R L R R L 6. R L R R L 6. R L. The '6.' indicates a triplet of sixteenth notes. Accents (>) are placed over the first and third notes of each triplet.

Example 4 - This is actually a displacement of the previous example which has been pushed back in time by one 16th note triplet to place the accents on the beat.

Example 4 musical notation: Similar to Example 3, but the triplet is displaced by one 16th note triplet. The pattern is: L R R L 6. L R R L. Accents (>) are placed over the first and third notes of each triplet.

Example 5 - Further expanding on what we have played so far, this fill features a repeated phrase lasting for three eighth notes that has an inverted six stroke roll added for an extra dynamic twist. The fill starts on the '4 &' of the groove, but feel free to experiment with different starting points.

Example 5 musical notation: A drum staff with a triplet of eighth notes on the snare (L) and a triplet of eighth notes on the snare (R). The pattern is: R L L R R L 6. R L R L L R R L 6. R L R L L R R L 6. R L R L L R R L 6. R L. The '6.' indicates a triplet of sixteenth notes. Accents (>) are placed over the first and third notes of each triplet.