

Double Stroke Workout Variation 4

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Variation 4. Now add the complete jazz ride cymbal pattern and spang spang-a-lang!

The image shows three staves of musical notation for Variation 4, written in 4/4 time. Each staff contains two measures of music, with repeat signs at the end of each measure. The notation includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, with 'x' marks above notes indicating cymbal patterns. The first staff shows a pattern of eighth notes on the snare and bass drum, with cymbal patterns on the ride cymbal. The second staff shows a similar pattern but with a different cymbal pattern. The third staff shows a pattern of eighth notes on the snare and bass drum, with cymbal patterns on the ride cymbal, and a 'spang spang-a-lang' pattern on the snare and bass drum.

Work Backwards!

Since, in a jazz setting, the ride cymbal should be the focus of your playing, try starting with the ride cymbal and hi hat, then add the snare and bass drum a little bit at a time, as you might if you were developing increasingly busy comping ideas. Be sure that the relative volume of each part of your kit (ride, hats, snare, bass drum) is under control - in other words, always listen for the balance between each limb, so the ride cymbal doesn't get buried by the snare and bass drum.

Don't forget to work on brushes!

Variation 5. Use this exercise as a workout for your brush technique as well - play all the triplets on the snare (with brushes) as in exercise #1.

Variation 6. Add hi hat on beats 2 & 4 to exercise #1.

Variation 7. Now play time with your brushes (rather than the triplets) and play either the snare drum line or bass drum line with the bass drum.

I'm sure there are loads more variations you can come up with - I haven't included any shuffle groove variations, for instance. Be creative and share them and any question you may have with me at GFpercussion.com.