

ROCK DRUM FILLS IN CONTEXT

Drum fills are usually played at the end of a musical phrase to serve as a bridge to connect ideas. Always practice fills in a musical "time" setting: we suggest that you play three bars of time followed by the one-bar fill. You may use any of the beats in the previous exercises for the time pattern. Play this page as a complete study, moving from fill to fill (in any order) without stopping. Remember to always play three bars of time between fills. Although fills break away from the basic beat, they should not speed up or slow down.

Example: 3 bars time Fill (example 1)

♩ = 96

Track 17

Track 18
Fill Instructions

Track 19
Fill Practice Drill

MORE FILLS

Try playing the first note of each bar on the ride cymbal to create an interesting variation. Here are some examples, but you should experiment with your own. Play three bars of time before each fill.



♩ = 96

1 L R R L

3 R L R R L

5 L R R L R

2 L R R L

4 L R L R L

6 R L R R L R

The next group of fills are based on the following sticking patterns:

Paradiddle - Diddle R R L R R L L

Double Paradiddle R R L R L R R L R L R L L

In the rudimental style of snare drumming these are called a paradiddle-diddle and a double paradiddle. Play three bars of time between each fill. Remember, practice across the page (ex. 7, 11, 15, etc.), as well as down the page (ex. 7, 8, 9, etc.).

7 R R L R R L L

11 R L R L R R R

15 R R L R L R R

8 R R L R R L L

12 R L R L R L L

16 R L R L R L L

9 R R L R R L L

13 R R L R R L L

17 R R L R R L L

10 R R L R R L L

14 R L R L R L L

18 R R L R R L L



TWO-BAR ROCK FILLS

In this section you will play two bars of time followed by a two-bar drum fill. You may use any of the beats in the previous exercises. Play this page as a complete study, moving from fill to fill (in any order) without stopping. Remember to always play two bars of time between fills.

Example: 2 bars time Fill (example 7)

Track 22 $\text{♩} = 96$

1 2 bars time R R L R L R L R L R

2 2 bars time R R L R L R L R L R L

3 2 bars time R R L R L R L R L R L

4 2 bars time R R L R R L R R L R L R L

5 2 bars time R L R L L R L L R L R L

6 2 bars time R R L L R L R L R L R L

7 2 bars time R L R L R L R L R L R L R

8 2 bars time R L R L R L R L R L L R L R

*The flam is a combination of a small note (grace note) and a main note. Its purpose is to produce a broader sound (tenuto).