

**Fill Options Using Groups of Five 16th's**

The following patterns A through P are each groups of five sixteenth notes which can be used for fill applications or any sort of interaction while playing another pattern on the hihat or ride cymbal simultaneously. The notes with a circle around the head represent a floortom, the ones without are regular snare strokes. The bassdrum fills the spaces between the notes of floortom and snare in a step-by-step process. Any stems without noteheads are rests:

Patterns A through P are shown as musical notation on a single staff. Each pattern consists of five sixteenth notes. The first note in each pattern has a circle around its head, indicating a floortom stroke. The remaining four notes have solid black heads, indicating snare strokes. The stems of the notes are connected by a horizontal line, and the spaces between them represent where the bass drum fills in a step-by-step process. The patterns are arranged in four rows: A-D, E-H, I-L, and M-P.

Combine these with the same twelve hihat patterns we also have been working on in the workshop in the magazine:

Twelve hihat patterns are shown in 2/4 time. Each pattern is numbered 1 through 12. The notation uses 'x' marks on a staff to represent hihat strokes. Patterns 1-4 are in 2/4 time, while patterns 5-12 are in 2/4 time with a 3/4 feel indicated by a slash and 3/4 below the staff. The patterns show various rhythmic combinations of hihat strokes and rests, including accents and beams.

## Open Handed Playing - Groups of Five

The combination of any of the hihat patterns and the five-note groupings will usually create a cycle of five bars. (In case the cycle is longer I would recommend to contact any experienced local drum teacher). However as a starting point I would recommend to begin with a four bar phrase consisting of two bars of regular eighth note groove and two bars of hihat plus the five-note phrase. Watch the example made up of pattern A of the groups of five and pattern number 2 of the hihat phrases:

The image displays three staves of musical notation for a drum set. The first staff is in 4/4 time and shows a hihat pattern consisting of eighth notes with accents (>) in every bar. The second and third staves show a five-note grouping pattern. In the second staff, the snare drum plays a quarter note with an accent (>) and the bass drum plays a quarter note with an accent (>) in every bar. The third staff shows the same pattern, but with the snare drum playing a quarter note with an accent (>) and the bass drum playing a quarter note with an accent (>) in every bar. The notation uses 'x' for hihat, 'o' for snare, and '●' for bass drum.

Remember the chess player example from the column in the MD magazine? The five-note grouping simply creates a lot of different combinations between your hands and feet that will stretch your open-handed vocabulary. On top of that, some of the combinations really sound cool! Have fun!

Claus Hessler