

Hi-Hat Open–Close Exercises

These exercises intend to improve coordination of open–close hi-hat figures with other voices on the drum set. Each hi-hat figure should be played consistently as two voices, first with all accompanying bass drum figures, then on the snare drum. Once two voice coordination is mastered, mix the snare/bass drum figures together against all hi-hat figures.

by Eric Pancer

Hi-Hat Variations (Triplets)

Exercise 1: A 4/4 time signature with a hi-hat symbol. The first measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: an open hi-hat (circle), a closed hi-hat (plus), and an open hi-hat (circle). This triplet is repeated four times. The second measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: a closed hi-hat (plus), an open hi-hat (circle), and a closed hi-hat (plus). This triplet is repeated four times. Exercises 2, 3, and 4 follow similar patterns with different combinations of open and closed hi-hats. Exercise 5 consists of four measures, each with a triplet of eighth notes: open, closed, open.

Snare/Bass Drum Variations (Triplets)

Exercise 1: A 4/4 time signature. The first measure contains four quarter notes. The second measure contains a triplet of eighth notes. Exercises 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 follow similar patterns with triplets of eighth notes. Exercise 7 consists of four measures, each with a triplet of eighth notes.

Hi-Hat Variations (16th Notes)

1 2

3 4

5 6

Snare/Bass Drum Variations (16th Notes)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15