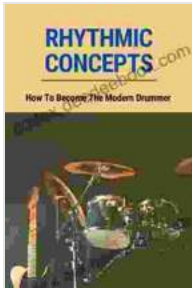


Rhythmic Concepts: How to Become the Modern Drummer



Rhythmic Concepts: How To Become The Modern Drummer by Russell Buddy Helm

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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In the ever-evolving landscape of drumming, rhythmic concepts play a pivotal role in shaping the sound and style of modern drummers. Moving beyond traditional 4/4 time signatures and basic beats, drummers are now exploring complex rhythms and patterns that push the boundaries of groove and musicality.

In this article, we will explore the rhythmic concepts that are essential for becoming a modern drummer. We will discuss topics such as odd time signatures, polyrhythms, and metric modulation, and provide exercises to help you develop your rhythmic vocabulary and skills.

Odd Time Signatures

Odd time signatures, such as 5/4, 7/8, and 11/4, can add a unique and captivating dimension to drumming. They challenge our sense of rhythm

and force us to think outside the box.

To master odd time signatures, it is important to first understand their underlying pulse. For example, 5/4 time has a pulse of three beats, while 7/8 time has a pulse of two beats.

Once you have a grasp of the pulse, you can start experimenting with different subdivisions. For instance, in 5/4 time, you could play a pattern that divides the five beats into three and two (3+2), or four and one (4+1).

Here is an exercise to help you develop your odd time skills:

| 5/4 | 1 2 3 4 5 | |-----|-----| | Snare | X X X | | Bass | X | | Hi-Hat | X X X X
|

Polyrhythms

Polyrhythms occur when two or more different rhythms are played simultaneously. This can create a complex and layered groove that adds depth and interest to the music.

One common type of polyrhythm is the hemiola, which is a rhythmic pattern that divides a measure into two unequal parts. For example, a hemiola in 4/4 time would divide the measure into 3+3+2.

Another type of polyrhythm is the cross-rhythm, which occurs when two rhythms cross over each other. For instance, a cross-rhythm in 4/4 time would have a 3/4 rhythm played over a 4/4 rhythm.

Here is an exercise to help you develop your polyrhythmic skills:

| 4/4 | 1 2 3 4 | |-----|-----| | Snare | X X X | | Bass | X X | | Hi-Hat | X X X X
X X |

Metric Modulation

Metric modulation is the process of changing the time signature mid-song. This can create a dramatic shift in the groove and feel of the music.

There are many different ways to modulate time signatures. One common technique is to start in a simple time signature, such as 4/4, and then gradually add or subtract beats to create a new time signature.

Another technique is to use polyrhythms to create a sense of metric modulation. For example, you could play a 3/4 rhythm over a 4/4 rhythm, which would create a feeling of 12/8 time.

Here is an exercise to help you develop your metric modulation skills:

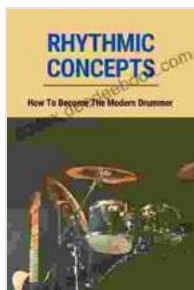
| 4/4 | 1 2 3 4 | |-----|-----| | Snare | X X X | | Bass | X X | | Hi-Hat | X X X X
X X |

| 7/8 | 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 | |-----|-----| | Snare | X X X X X | | Bass | X X X | |
Hi-Hat | X X X X X X X |

Rhythmic concepts are an essential part of modern drumming. By developing a solid understanding of odd time signatures, polyrhythms, and metric modulation, you can expand your rhythmic vocabulary and create more sophisticated and interesting grooves.

The exercises in this article will help you get started on your journey to becoming a more rhythmic drummer. With patience and practice, you can

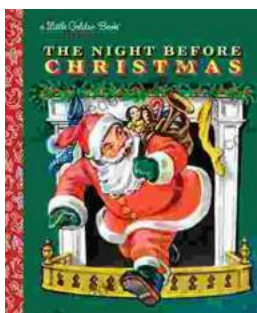
master these concepts and take your drumming to the next level.



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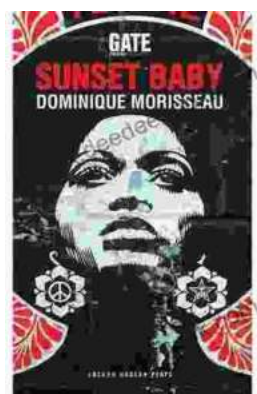
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