There are hundreds of grooves from around the world and even more yet to be invented! Here are some of the most common ones every drummer should know.

Mastering the elusive “swing eighth note” is essential for playing jazz. To get started, simply phrase all your eighth notes like triplets.

For example, the ride cymbal pattern is written: \(\frac{\text{\textbullet}}{}\) \(\frac{\text{\textbullet}}{}\) \(\frac{\text{\textbullet}}{}\) but is played: \(\frac{\text{\textbullet}}{}\) \(\frac{\text{\textbullet}}{}\) \(\frac{\text{\textbullet}}{}\) \(\frac{\text{\textbullet}}{}\)

These first 5 grooves are good examples of a steady swing beat with various snare drum comping. Don’t forget your dynamics: the ride cymbal is strong, the hi-hat is tight and snappy, the bass drum is very soft (called “feathering”) and your snare drum “comping” rhythms are clear, but not as loud as your cymbal pattern. Listen to great jazz drummers to hear their interpretation of swing. As always, listening is your best teacher!
LEARN YOUR GROOVES ONLINE!

Featuring Quicktime audio and video clips of Tommy Igoe performing each groove as well as giving his unique insight into its application.

While you’re there, check out all of our educational features!

webrhythms 15 lessons designed to help you learn to read rhythms! Even advanced players can test their rhythm-reading skills with our “pro-challenge” audio files!

Learn the 40 P.A.S. Standard Rudiments! We have video clips of Dr. John Wooton performing each rudiment in the “open-closed-open” style, as well as play-along audio files and exercises to help you master the rudiments!

media vault Updated each week with video clips and audio interviews of your favorite Vic Firth artists! From drumset to drum corps, it’s the best the web has to offer in “educational entertainment”!

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