Easy Bucket Drumming

Sample

Includes:
- 18 songs – pop to classical
- Projectables
- Movies
- Teaching Tips and more!

by Matthew Dane Peavoy

Themes & Variations

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Sample

Playing Position

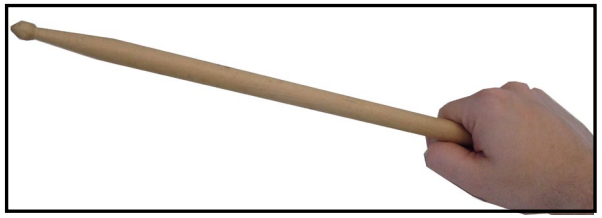
Holding the Drum Sticks

Grip the drum stick between your first finger and thumb with your palm facing the floor. This allows the drum stick to bounce. Be careful not to grip it with a closed fist, as this will prevent the drum from sounding properly. The pointer finger should not extended along the drum stick, but should be gently wrapped around it.

Two Finger Grip
(good)

Pointer Grip
(bad)

Fist Grip
(bad)



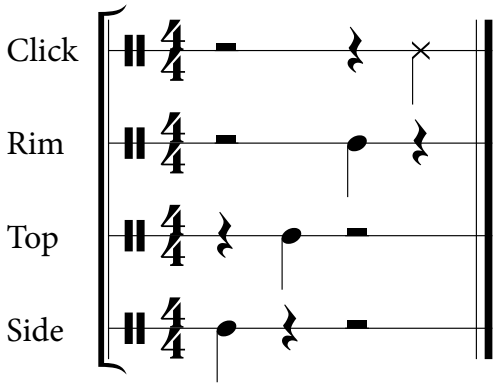
Sample

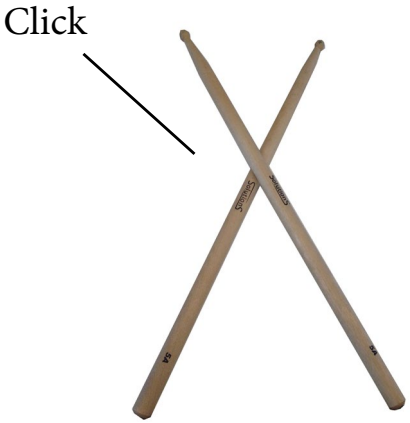
Sitting Position

You can sit on the floor, on another bucket, or a low stool. Sit tall with your elbows slightly raised to the side. Hold the drum between your legs and have it tilted slightly forward. This will give the drum a better sound.

Parts of the Bucket

You can create different sounds by striking different parts of the bucket. The lowest line in the music is the side of the bucket. This is because the sides of the bucket often produce the lowest sound, although this might vary depending on the bucket. Be careful not to let the bucket move when you hit the sides. Next is the top of the bucket, and then the rim. When striking the rim, hit the part of the rim farthest away from you as this will make it easier to play. Finally, the top line of music is played by clicking the sticks. This is written as an x to remind you to cross the drum sticks.



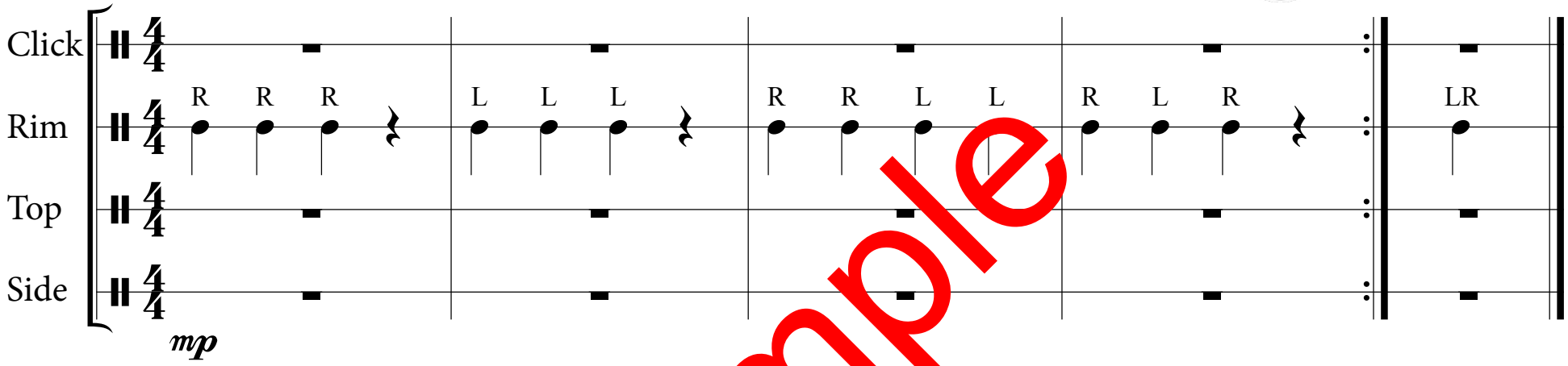


Sample

3. Off the Rim

8 beat intro

Play 4x



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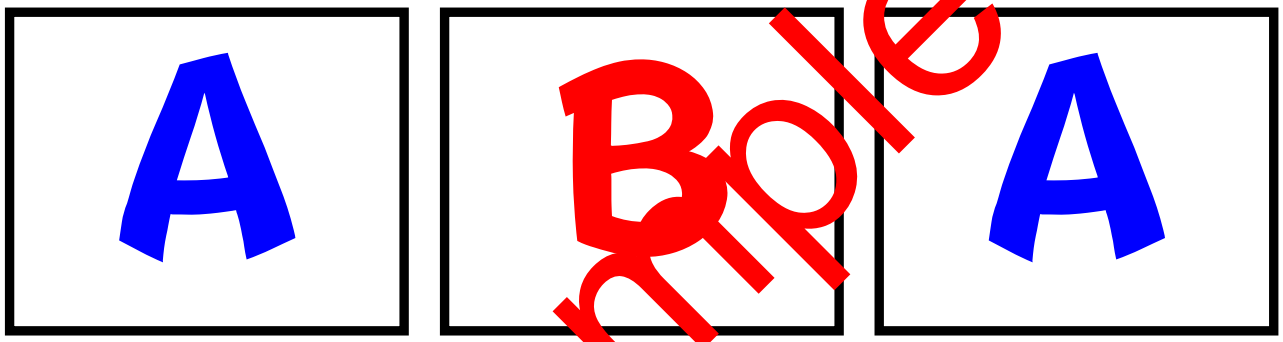
Musical Form

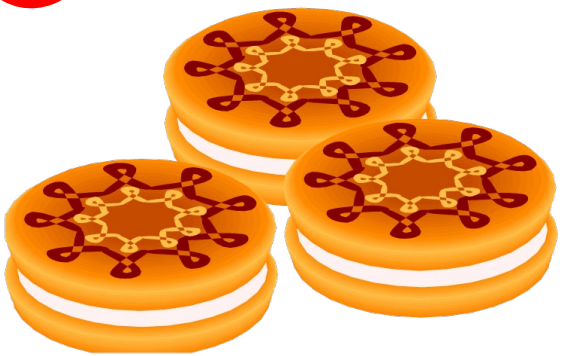
The way music is organized is called its form. Form makes it easy for a listener or a performer to understand the music and gives it some variety. One of the most common forms is called:

ABA Form



Teacher Tip!

ABA form is kind of like a cookie, the top and bottom are the same, but there is something different in the middle.



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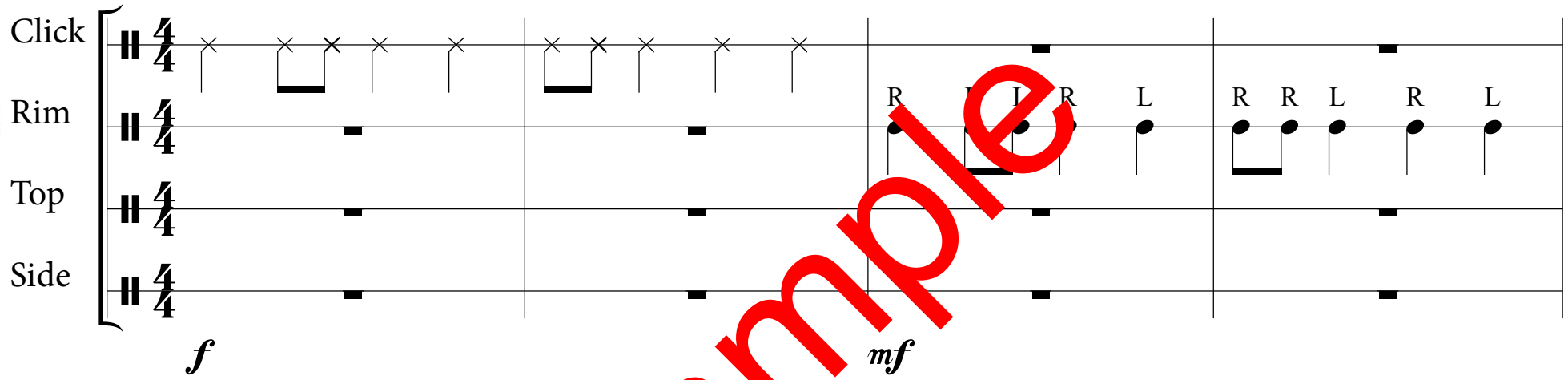
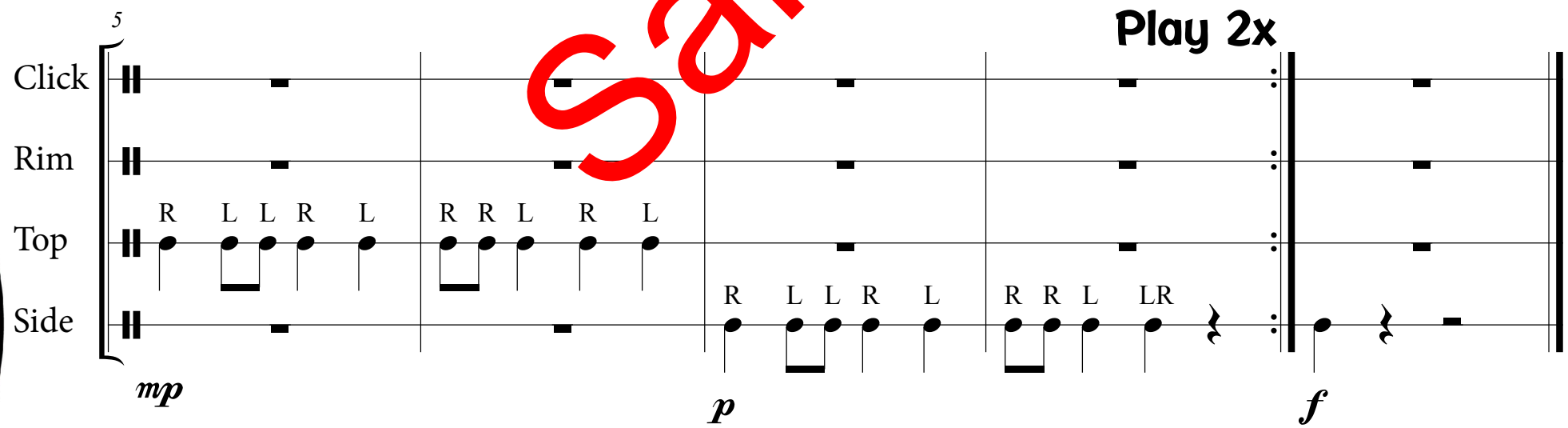
7. Copper and Tin

8 beat intro





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8 beat intro

8. Bat Rap

Play 2x

A

Click

Rim

Top

Side

p

5 B

Play 4x

Click

Rim R R R R R

Top R L L L R L L L R L L L R L L L LR

Side

p

Sample

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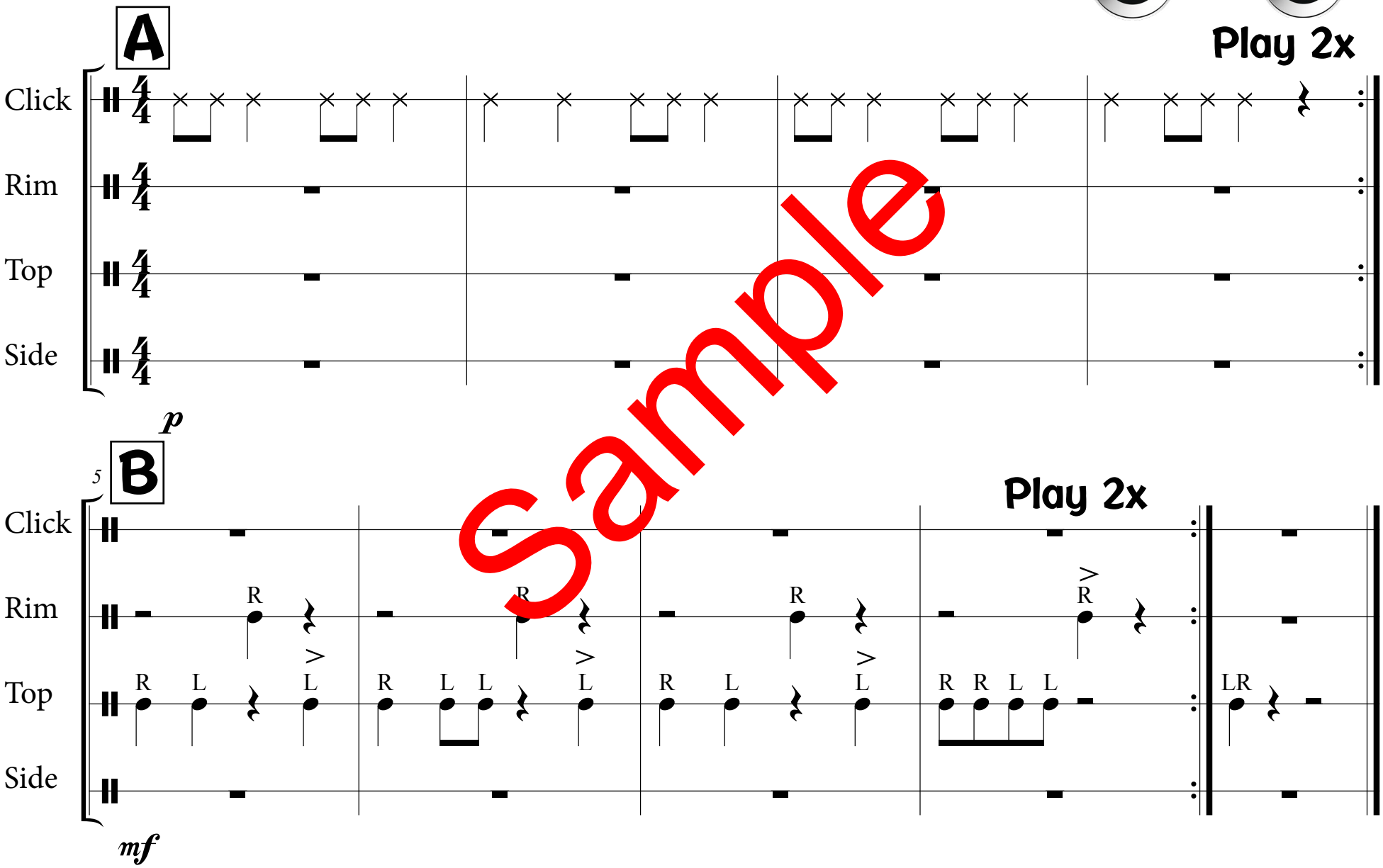
16 beat intro

9. Cannonball Run



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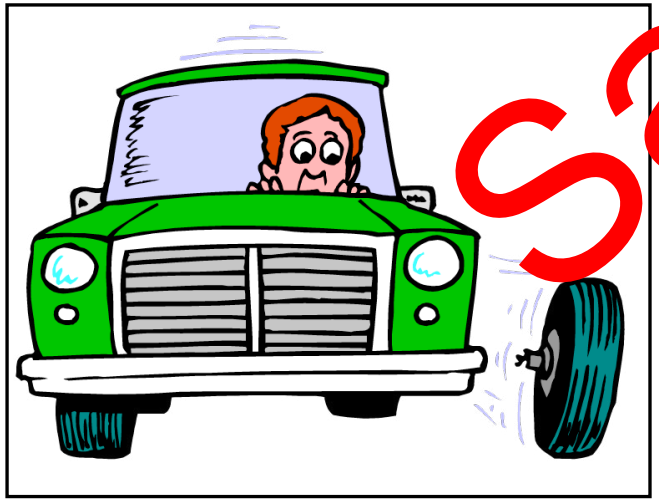
Hand Independence

Process

Sometimes in bucket drumming, one hand might be doing something different than the other. We call this hand independence. On a full drum kit, sometimes a drummer is hitting a drum with one hand, a cymbal with another, hitting the bass drum with his right foot and the Hi-hat with his left, all at the same time!

Did you know there are many other things in life which require doing two things at once, such as driving a car, playing the piano, or conducting an orchestra? Can you think of any others?



Sample

Hand Independence Practice

1. Draw a picture with your dominant hand and high-five your neighbour at the same time.

2. Rub your belly in a circular pattern and pat your head at the same time.

3. Walk around the room and clap only when you step on your right foot.

4. Clap twice for every step you take around the room.

5. Practice drumming on the the floor. Tap your right hand twice as often as your left.

Sample

Doing two things at once can seem challenging at first but all it requires is patience and lots of practice. The next two pieces are preparing you to play two places on the drum at the same time! Pay attention to how each feels and which hand is playing slower.

Syncopation Example

You can find some great examples of syncopation on youtube. To hear how syncopation can affect music, links are provided in the Projectable PDF of Judy Garland singing “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” and then Sarah Vaugan singing the same song. The next few songs have opportunities for you to improvise! Try adding some sycopation by accenting weak beats, anticipating or delaying notes.

Sample

Compare these two recordings

Judy Garland “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”
https://youtu.be/PSZxmZmBfnU

Sarah Vaughan “Somewhere Over the Rainbow”
https://youtu.be/QYxbP1dhnxE

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