

PREFACE

Rock music ushered in a new era in drumming, leading to a revolutionary change in the use of the bass drum. Before

rock music came along, jazz drummers helped to expand the potential of the bass by using it to "kick" coordinated rhythmic figures

based mostly on eighth-note triplets. With the advent and development of rock, however, sixteenth-note rhythmic patterns on the bass

became commonplace, so drummers had to increase their facility in the area of hand-foot coordination.

Disco drumming, an offshoot of rock playing has helped to foster still another revolutionary change—this time in the

way the hi-hat is played. Before disco music, rock drummers played mostly steady eighth-notes on the hi-hat, which was usually kept in

a closed position. Consequently, there was little use of the left foot, and many rock drummers found themselves somewhat at a loss

when it came to doing any more than playing two and four with the hi-hat. Disco music, however, has changed all that, for it has a

unique sound, the most distinctive feature being the "bark" of the hi-hat, usually occurring on the upbeats of 1, 2, 3, or 4. Producing

this "bark" is not without its difficulties for the left foot must be called into play constantly, making it encumbent upon the drummer

to develop greater coordinative control with both his feet. It is not terribly difficult to play a simple disco beat by maintaining the bass

"in four," while opening the hi-hat on offbeats. But being able to play intricate sixteenth-note patterns on the bass as you open and

close the hi-hat on different parts of the beat is quite another matter. The degree of coordinative facility necessary for this type of

freedom is extensive, and DISCO DRUMMING is designed to show you precisely how to develop that freedom.

Another publication, FOUR WAY COORDINATION FOR ROCK DRUMMING, although not intended for disco

drumming specifically, will help to develop the feeling of complete independence with all four limbs, so that one's overall control be-

tween the ride cymbal, hi-hat, snare, and bass is greatly enhanced. I highly recommend the use of that book in conjunction with this

one.

IMPORTANT: Throughout this study the letter "O" appears above certain notes. It denotes an open hi-hat. Be cer-

tain to keep the hi-hat closed on all other notes.

I'm grateful to Daniel Elfassy for his editorial help.

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PART ONE

EIGHTH NOTES ON THE HI-HAT

This first section shows most of the places a hi-hat can be opened and closed while playing eighth-notes in 4/4 time. The first page will notate the most common places for opening the hi-hat, such as the upbeats of 1, 2, 3, or 4. The subsequent three pages, however, demonstrate where the hi-hat might be opened on downbeats as well as upbeats. Although this is not a common practice, it does give the reader an opportunity to explore some possibilities which may not have come to mind.

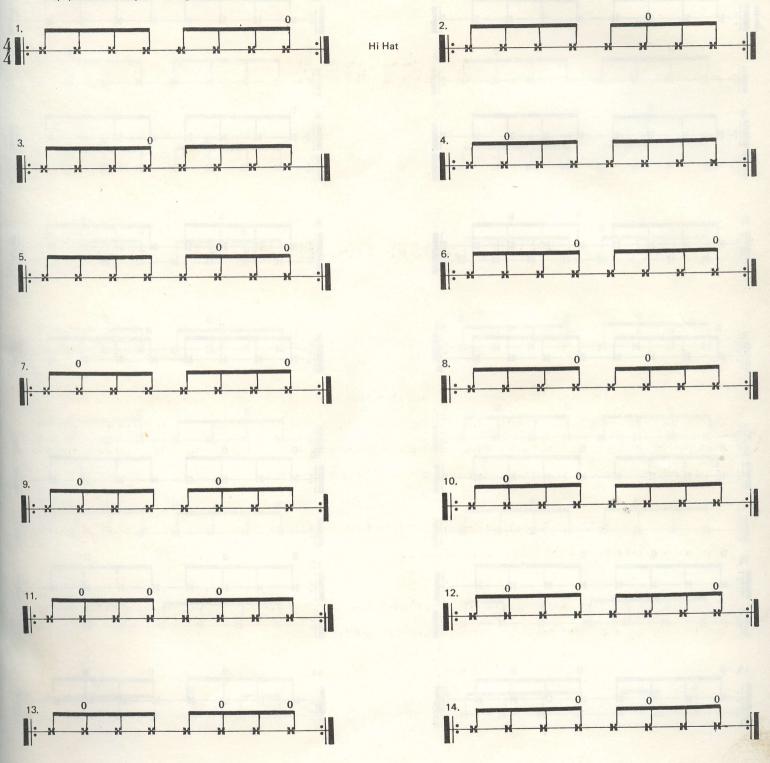
IMPORTANT: The exercises are notated strictly for hi-hat. However, I suggest you play your bass drum on every downbeat, and your snare on 2 and 4 throughout each exercise.

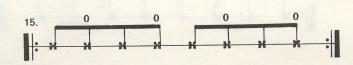
Keep in mind that the letter "O" above a note indicates that the hi-hat cymbals should be opened on that note, and that note alone. Be certain to keep your hi-hat cymbals together on all other notes.

HI-HAT OPENED ON UPBEATS

The letter "O" above a note indicates that the hi-hat cymbals should be opened on that note, and that note alone.

Keep your hi-hat cymbals together on all other notes.



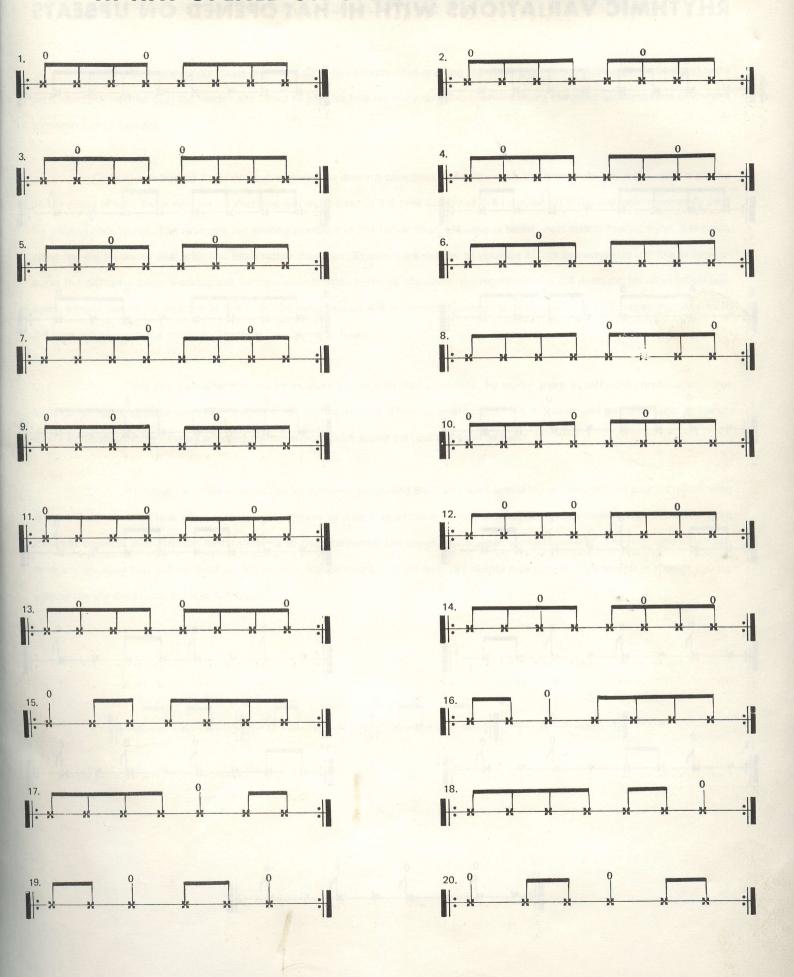


HI-HAT OPENED ON DOWNBEATS

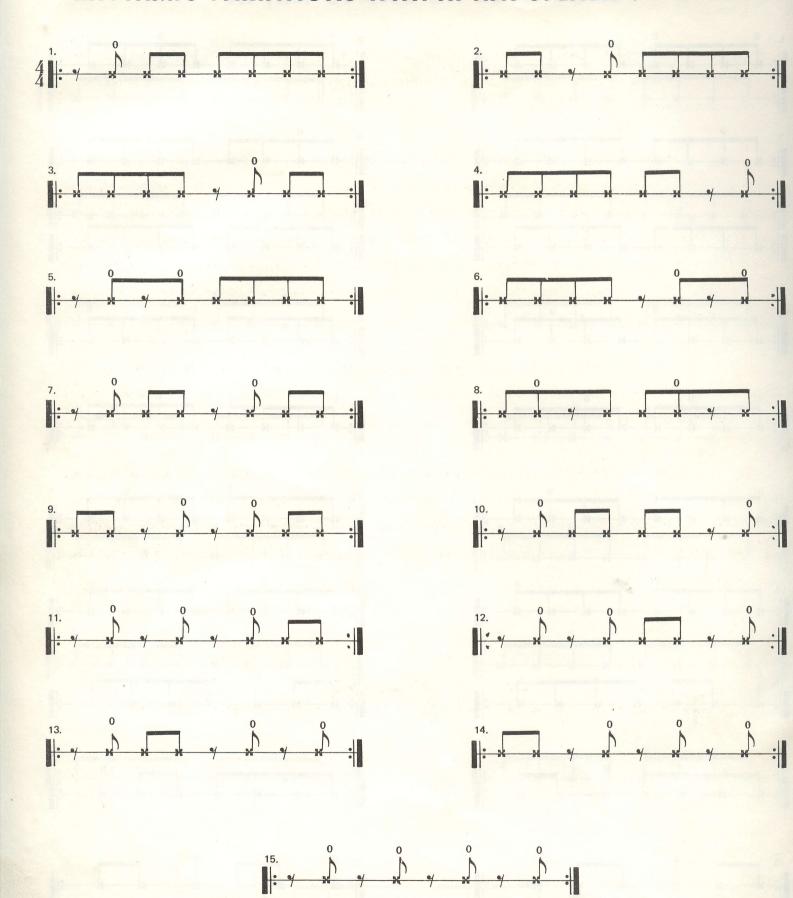


Remember: Play your bass on every beat, and your snare on 2 and 4 throughout each exercise.

HI-HAT OPENED ON UPBEATS AND DOWNBEATS



RHYTHMIC VARIATIONS WITH HI-HAT OPENED ON UPBEATS

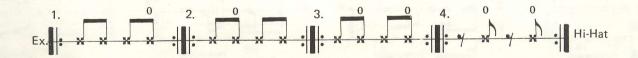


The previous four pages presented sixty-five exercises for opening and closing the hi-hat. Although the bass and snare parts were not written out, the reader was asked to play his bass on every downbeat, while playing the snare on the counts of 2 and 4 throughout each exercise.

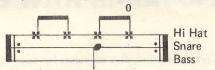
The following pages present exercises to develop coordinative facility with the bass drum, while the snare is played on the count of two. From now on, all exercises will be notated in 2/4 time instead of 4/4 time, which is the one most commonly used for playing rock music. The rationale for writing exercises in 2/4 rather than 4/4 time is based upon several factors. First, it is much easier for the reader to deal with two beats rather than four. Exercises are simpler to visualize as well as memorize, and this in turn reduces the difficulty when working out intricate coordination patterns. Moreover, the repetition of a 2/4 measure, for all practical purposes, sounds just like a measure in 4/4 time. So, even though 4/4 is the most common time signature for rock, repeating patterns in 2/4 time will give you the necessary rhythms for playing in four.

I suggest that after the reader masters all the exercises as written, he replay them in different combinations. For instance, combine exercise one with number three, or five, or nine. This will create patterns in 4/4 time, and give the reader an opportunity to develop his own ear by selecting combinations which sound particularly good to him.

Although sixty-five possibilities for opening and closing the hi-hat were presented on the previous pages, the following pages will demonstrate bass drum variations in relation to only four of the sixty-five possibilities. I have chosen what I consider to be the most common and practical hi-hat patterns so that the reader can avoid practicing extraneous material. The following hi-hat patterns are the ones that will be used in this section. Notice they are in 2/4 time. By simply repeating them it sounds as though you are playing the standard disco beats in 4/4 time.



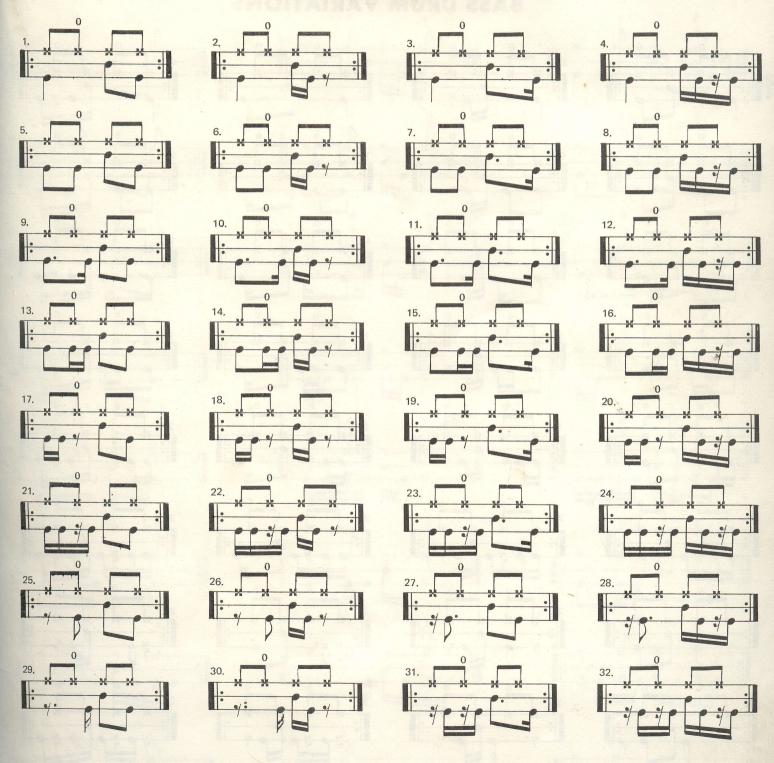
HI-HAT OPENED ON THE UPBEAT OF TWO





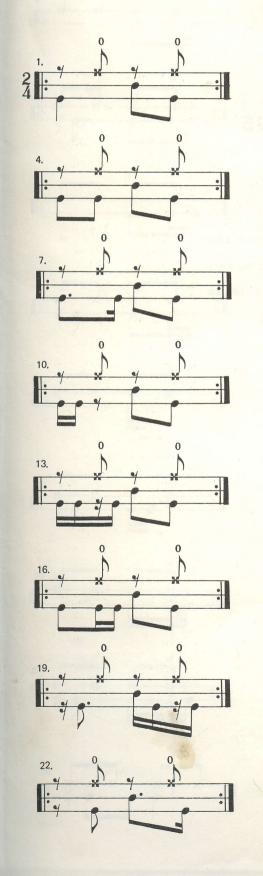
HI-HAT OPENED ON THE UPBEAT OF ONE

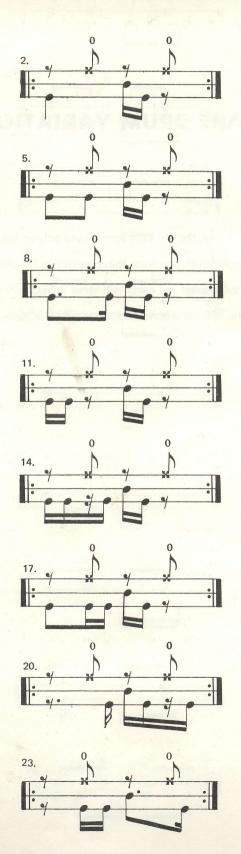


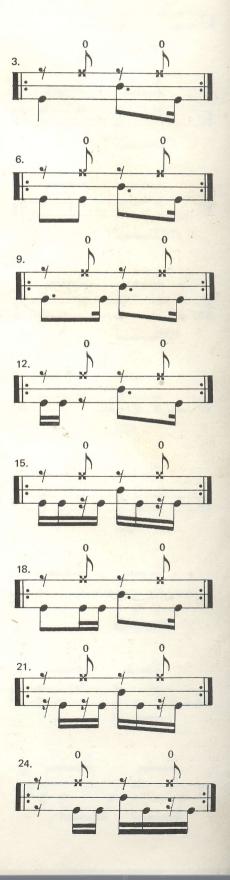


COMMON HI-HAT PATTERN PLAYED ONLY ON OFFBEATS

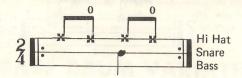


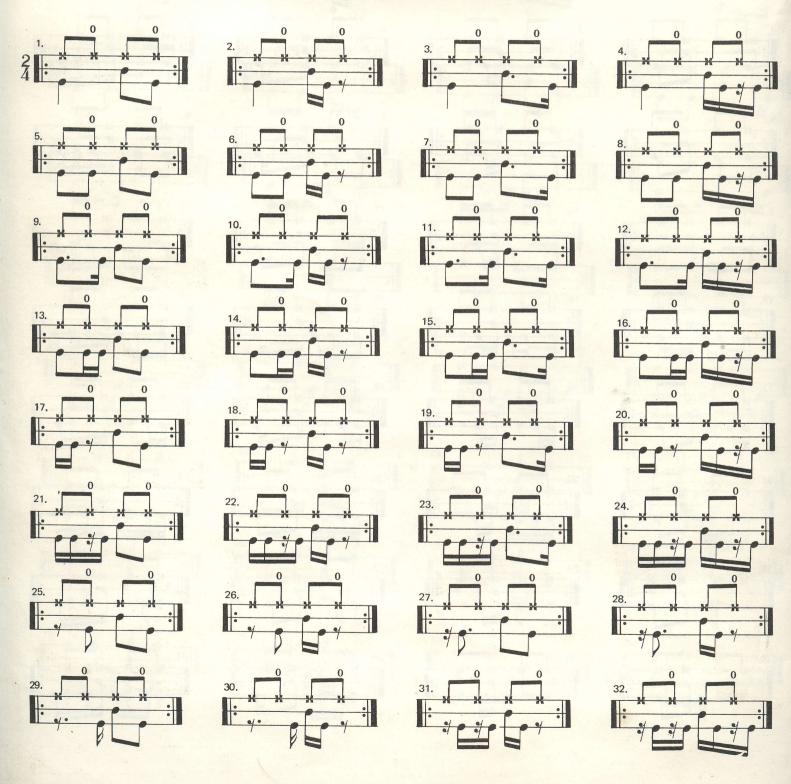






HI-HAT OPENED ON THE UPBEATS OF ONE AND TWO



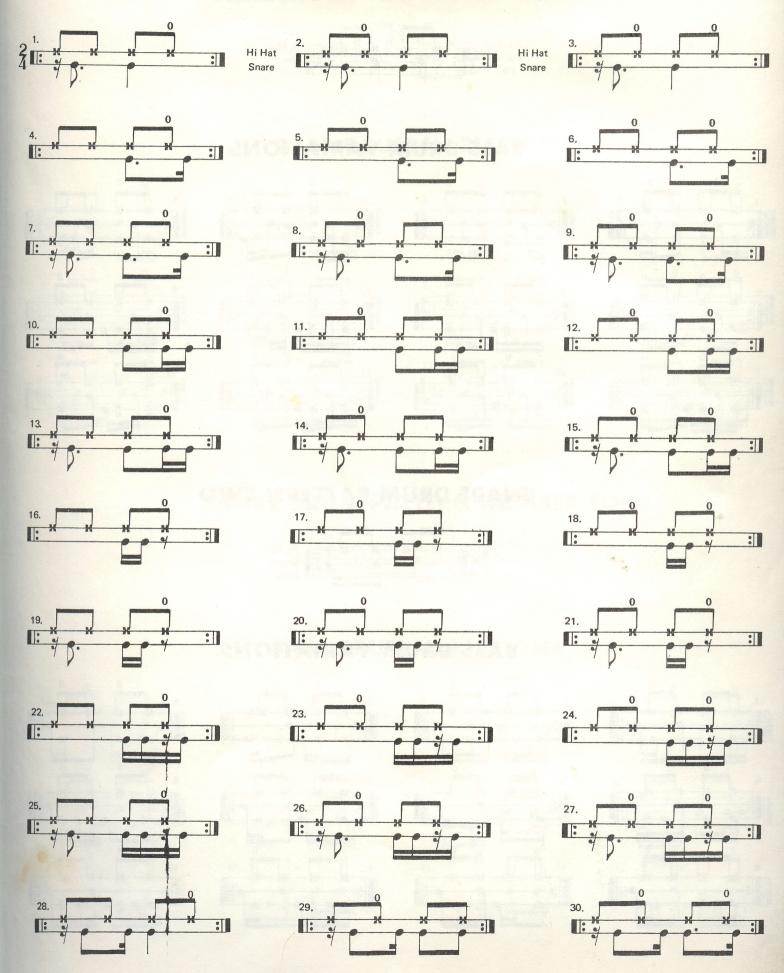


SNARE DRUM VARIATIONS

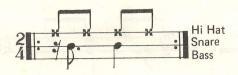
Until now, the snare has been played only on the count of two.

The next page will demonstrate thirty variations for playing the snare drum. The subsequent six pages will show an extensive array of bass drum patterns weaved around selected snare drum variations.

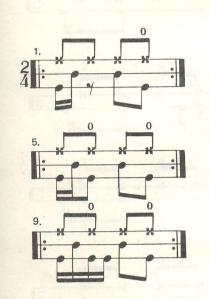
VARIATIONS FOR SNARE DRUM

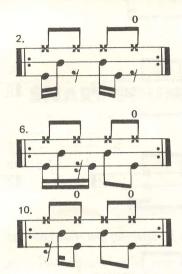


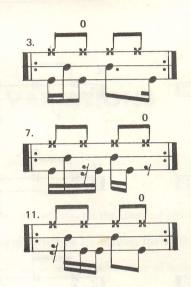
SNARE DRUM PATTERN NUMBER ONE

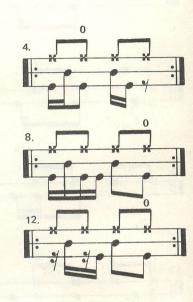


BASS DRUM VARIATIONS

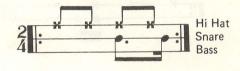


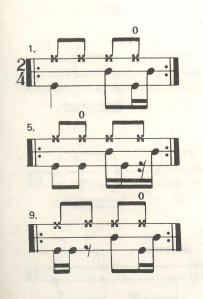


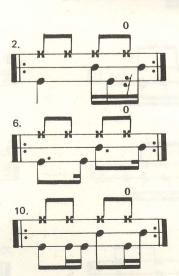


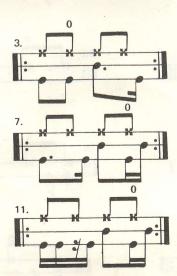


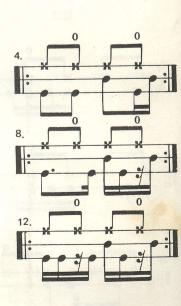
SNARE DRUM PATTERN TWO



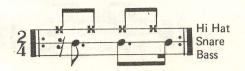




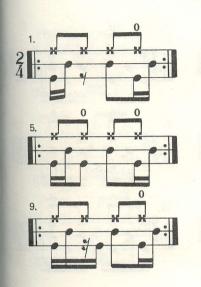


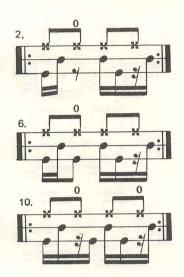


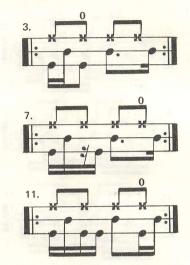
SNARE DRUM PATTERN NUMBER THREE

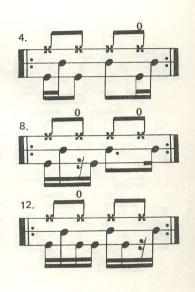


BASS DRUM VARIATIONS

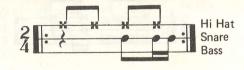


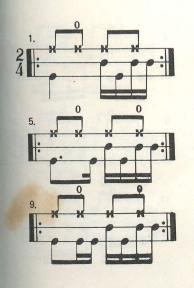


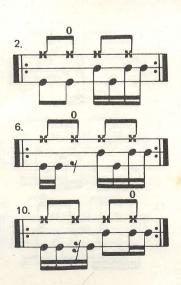


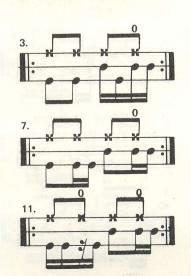


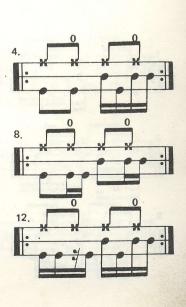
SNARE DRUM PATTERN NUMBER FOUR



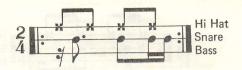




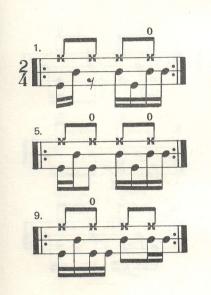


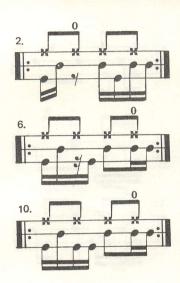


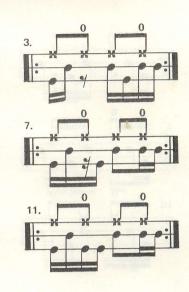
SNARE DRUM PATTERN NUMBER FIVE

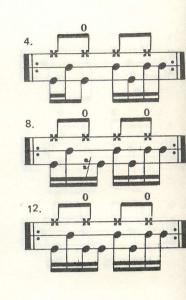


BASS DRUM VARIATIONS



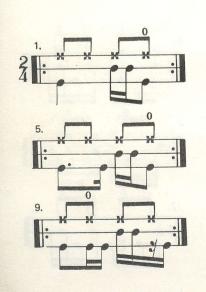


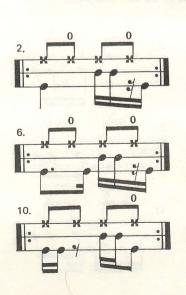


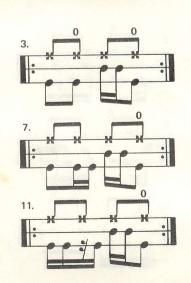


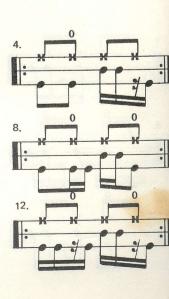
SNARE DRUM PATTERN NUMBER SIX



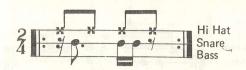




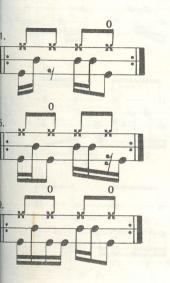


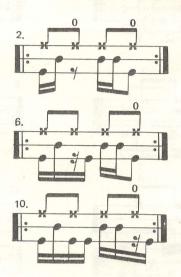


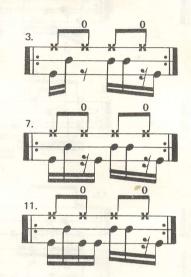
SNARE DRUM PATTERN NUMBER SEVEN

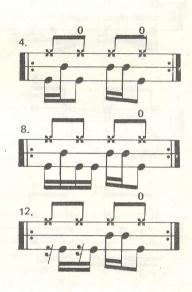


BASS DRUM VARIATIONS



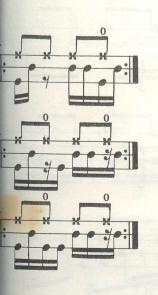


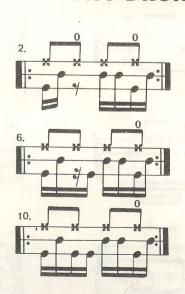


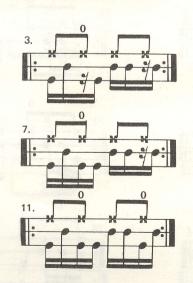


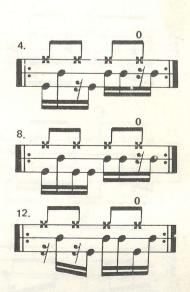
SNARE DRUM PATTERN NUMBER EIGHT





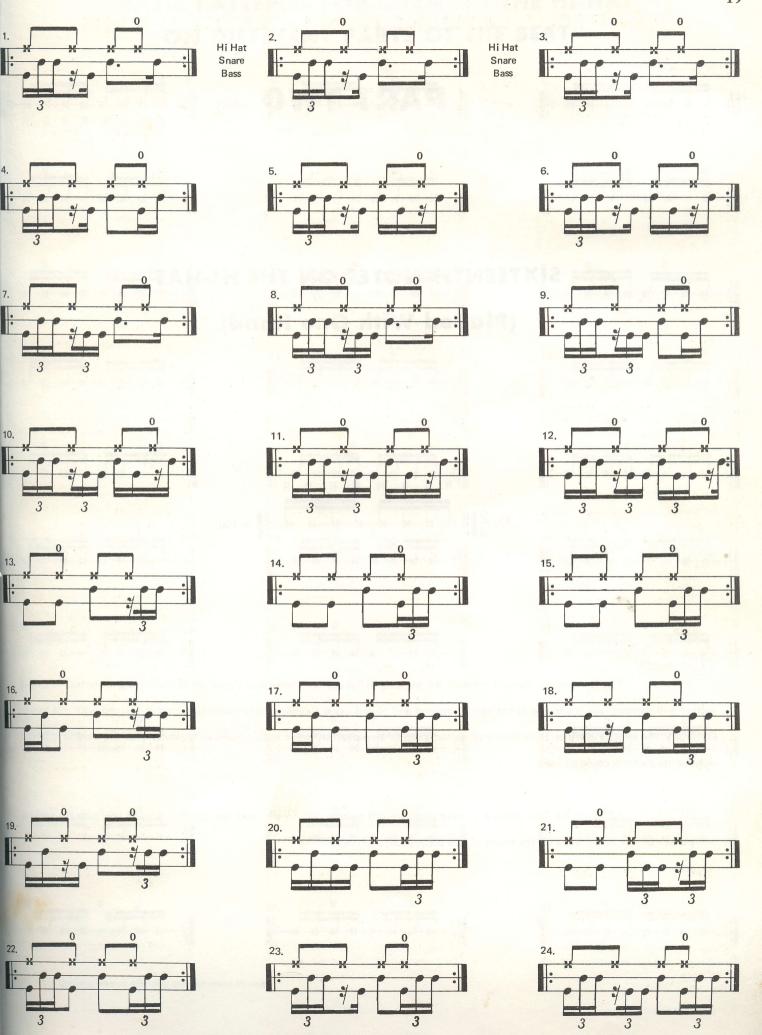






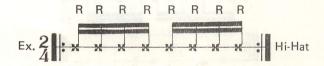
SPECIAL PATTERNS WITH 1/16 NOTE TRIPLETS





PART TWO

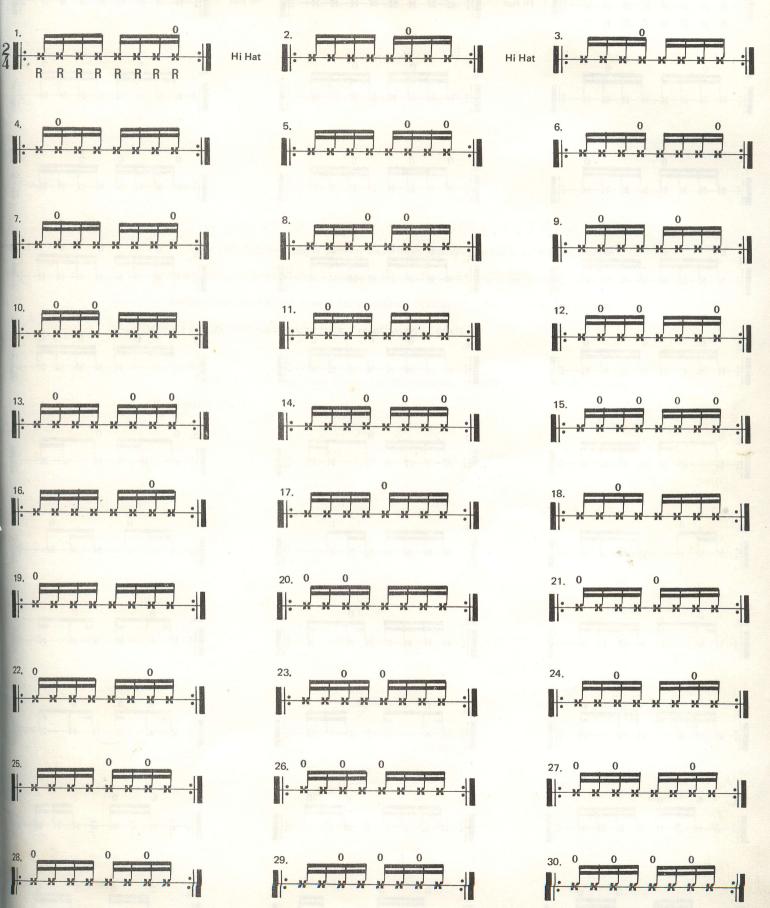
SIXTEENTH-NOTES ON THE HI-HAT (Played With One Hand)

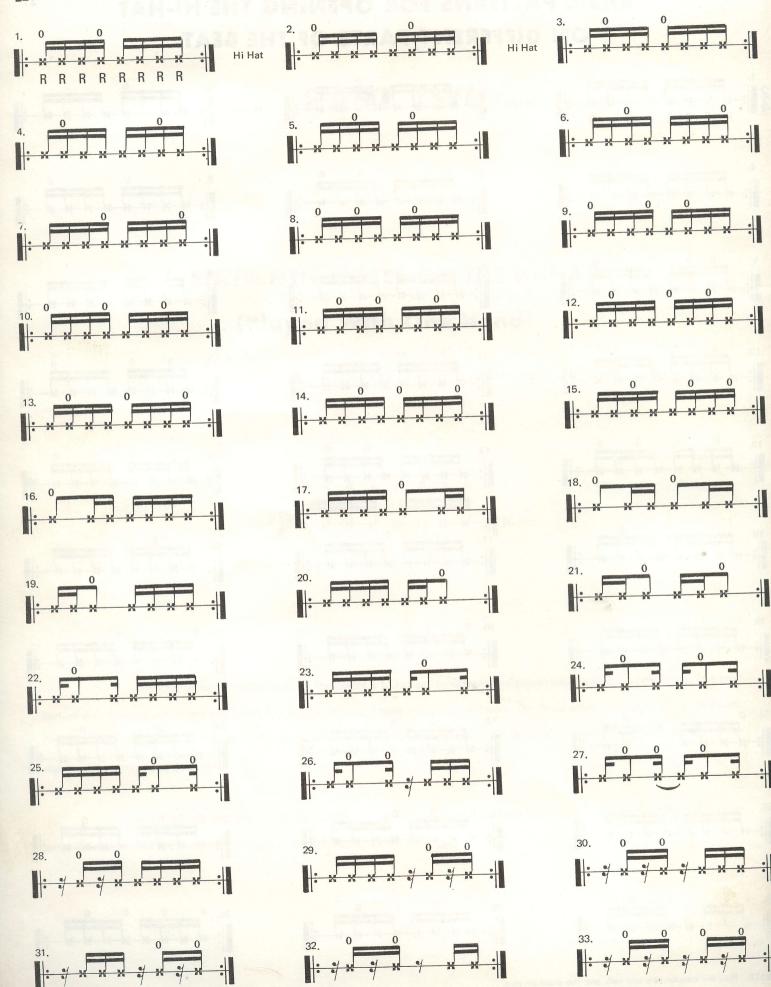


The first section showed most of the places a hi-hat can be opened and closed while playing eighth-notes. This next section will demonstrate where the hi-hat can be opened and closed using sixteenth-note rhythmic patterns (played with one hand). Obviously, the tempos at which these rhythmic patterns can be employed will have to be significantly slower than the tempos in which eighth-note patterns could be used.

Although the bass drum and snare parts are not written out on the next two pages, I suggest you play the bass on every down beat, and the snare on the count of two throughout each exercise.

BASIC PATTERNS FOR OPENING THE HI-HAT ON DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BEAT





NOTE: Play the bass on one and two, and the snare on two

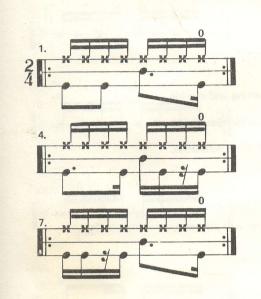
The previous two pages showed sixty-three possibilities for opening and closing the hi-hat, using sixteenth-note rhythmic patterns. The following pages present exercises to develop coordinative facility with the bass drum in relation to ten of those possibilities, which I consider the most useful from a practical point of view.

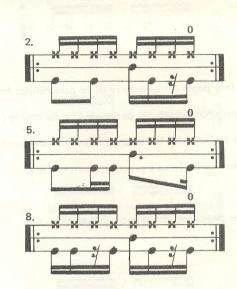
Except for one page near the end of this section, the snare drum will play only on the count of two.

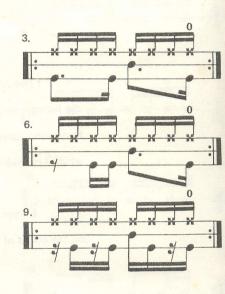
HI-HAT PATTERN NUMBER ONE



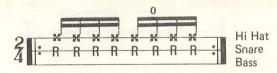
BASS DRUM VARIATIONS

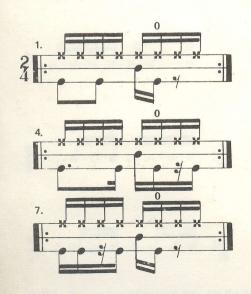


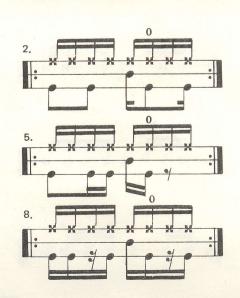


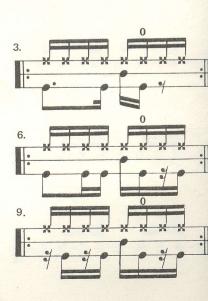


HI-HAT PATTERN NUMBER TWO

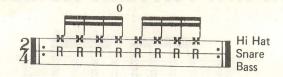




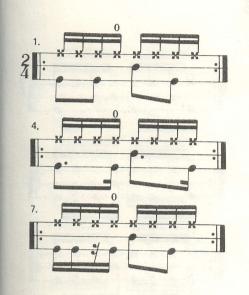


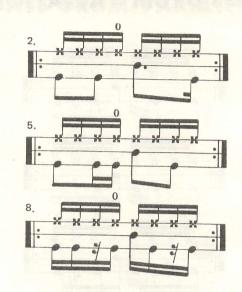


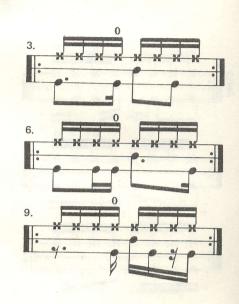
HI-HAT NUMBER THREE



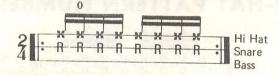
BASS DRUM VARIATIONS

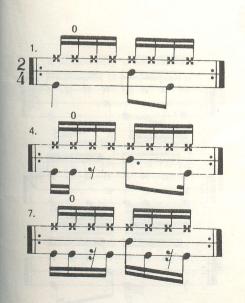


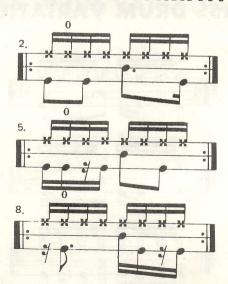


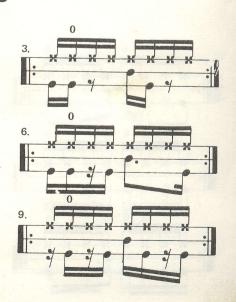


HI-HAT NUMBER FOUR

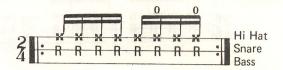




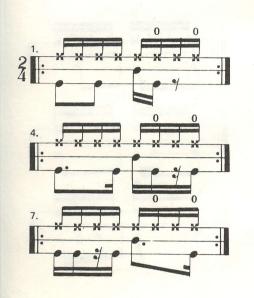


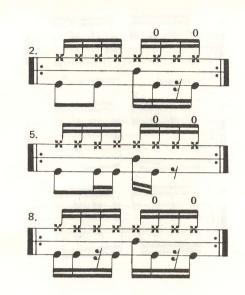


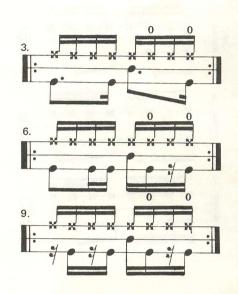
HI-HAT PATTERN NUMBER FIVE



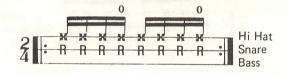
BASS DRUM VARIATIONS

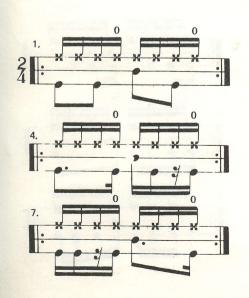


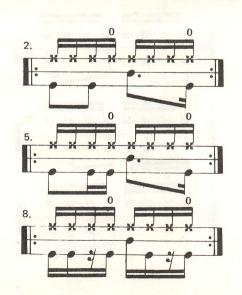


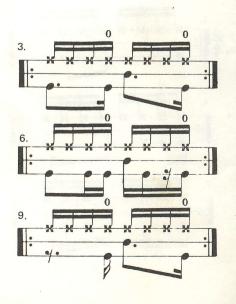


HI-HAT PATTERN NUMBER SIX

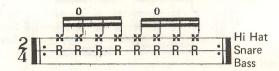




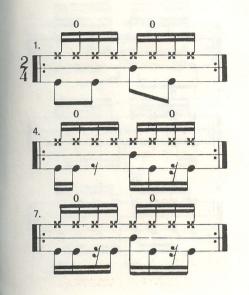


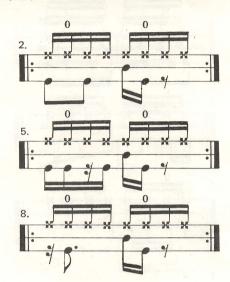


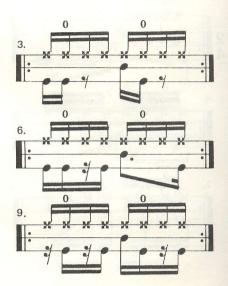
HI-HAT PATTERN NUMBER SEVEN



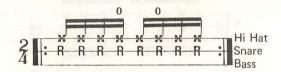
BASS DRUM VARIATIONS

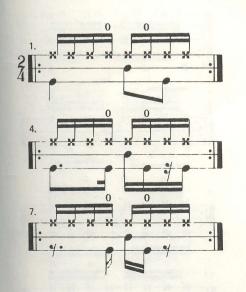


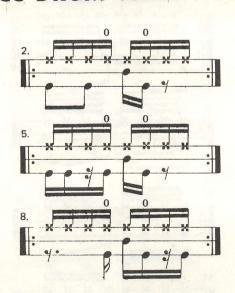


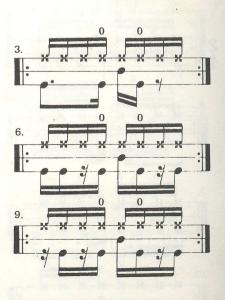


HI-HAT PATTERN NUMBER EIGHT

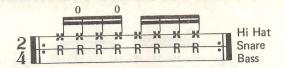




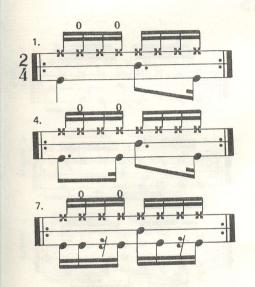


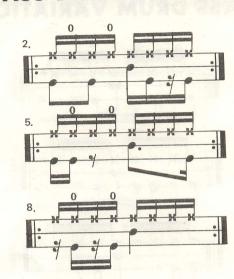


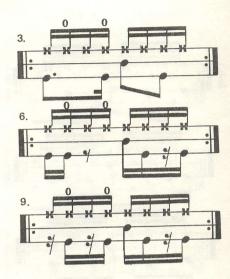
HI-HAT PATTERN NUMBER NINE



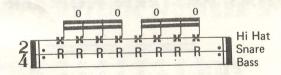
BASS DRUM VARIATIONS

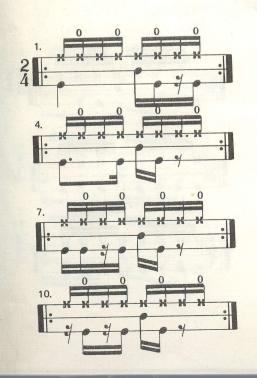


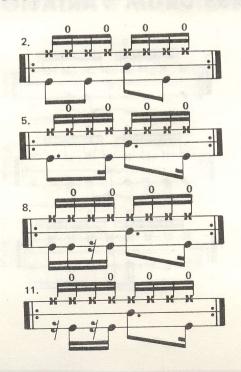


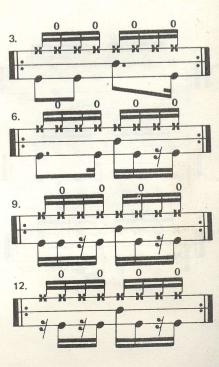


HI-HAT PATTERN NUMBER TEN





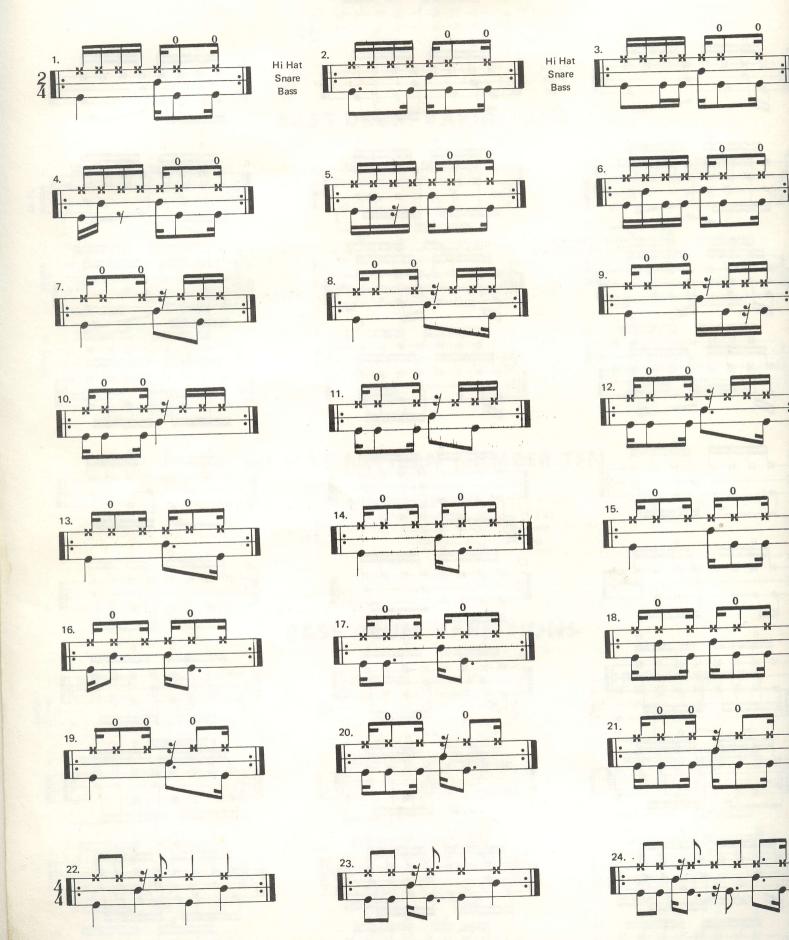




VARIATIONS FOR SNARE AND BASS



EXTRA PATTERNS

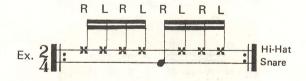


PART THREE

SIXTEENTH NOTES ON THE HI-HAT (Played With Alternating Hands)

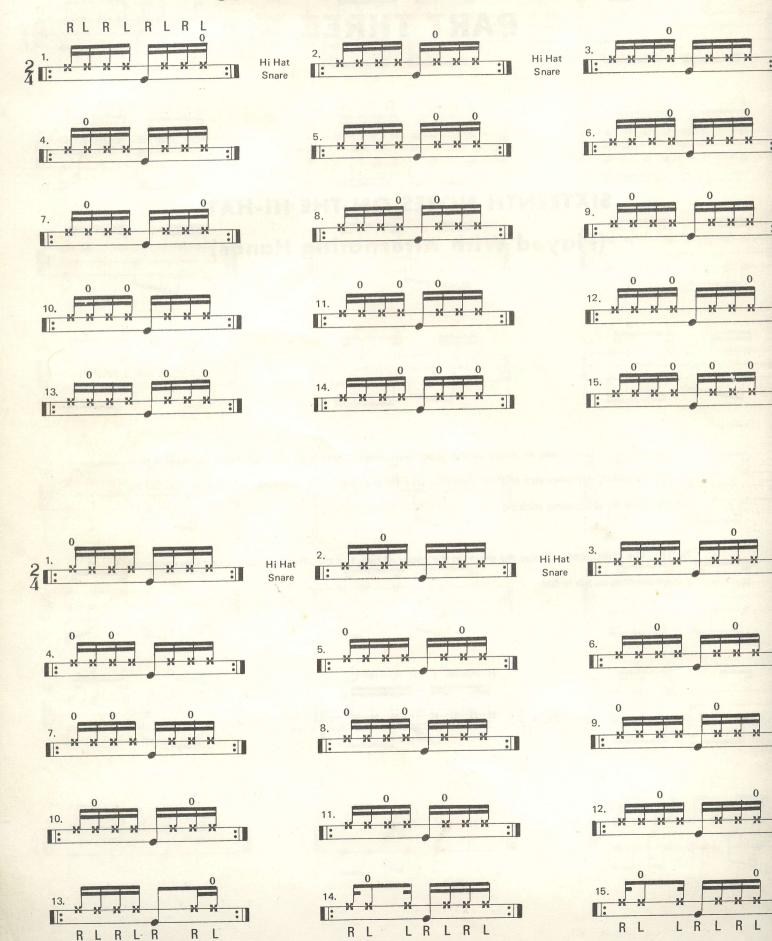
Until now, all notes on the hi-hat have been played with the right hand alone. This next section, however, demonstrates another common way for playing steady sixteenth-note patterns on the hi-hat by using an alternating sticking.

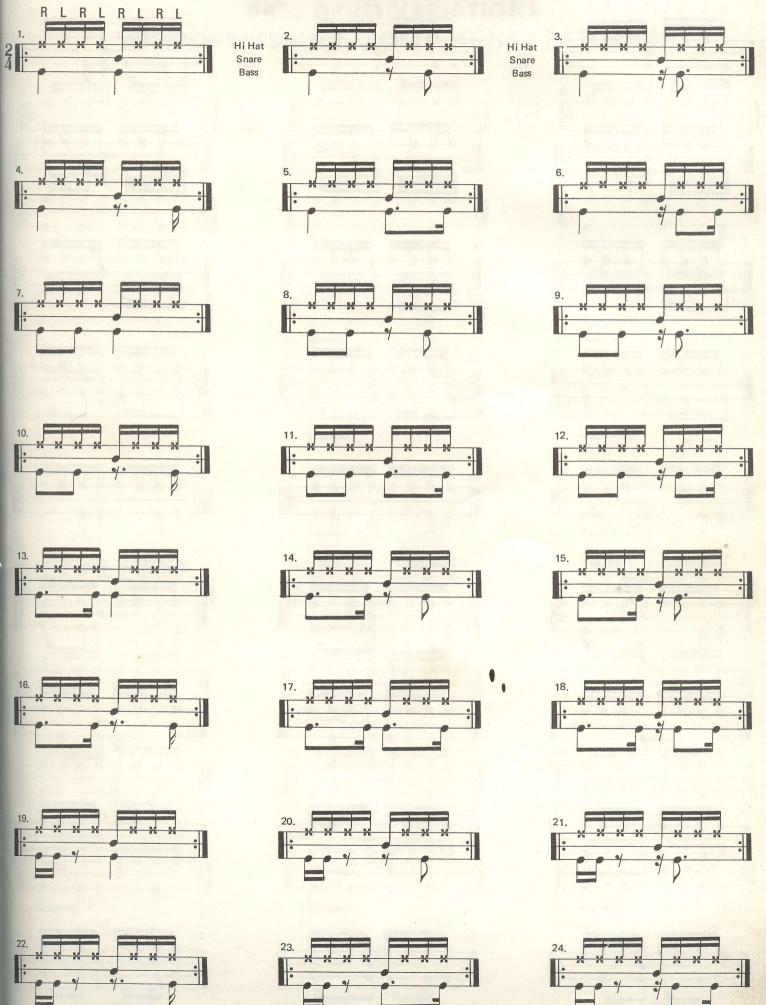
NOTE: The right hand will play the snare on the count of two, but the effect will still sound like continual sixteenth-notes on the hi-hat.

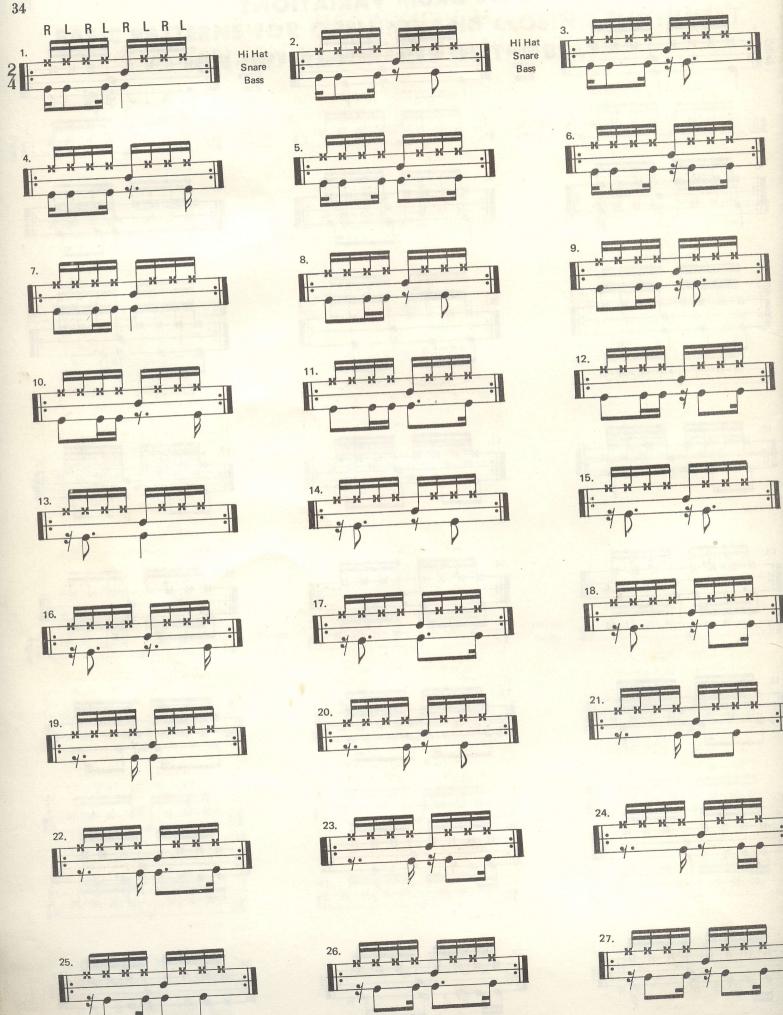


NOTE: Play the bass on one and two.

BASIC PATTERNS FOR OPENING AND CLOSING THE HI-HAT ON DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BEAT







BASS DRUM VARIATIONS WITH OPENED AND CLOSED HI-HAT PATTERNS



SPECIAL HI-HAT PATTERNS WITH 1/16 NOTE TRIPLETS

