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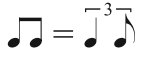
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Prelude to a Groove

Snare Drum Variations CD 4

As I mentioned in the beginning of this section, the shuffle is a many-headed creature that can be articulated in all kinds of different ways. To help you explore some of these variations, try the following snare drum variations against the three ride patterns from the previous page. Make sure to articulate all eighth notes as swung eighths.



Adding Ghost Notes CD 5

Often times, blues drummers will add ghost strokes when playing snare patterns like the ones above. These “silent” strokes are a big weapon in your shuffle arsenal, not only because they fill out the groove, but because they keep your shuffle “cruising” along with the right forward momentum. To work on your own ghost note approach, play the same exercises as above, only this time add ghost strokes on all remaining eighth notes. It is extremely important that you keep your accented and unaccented strokes at two distinct and separate dynamic levels.

