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presents

AARON SPEARS:
Beyond the Chops

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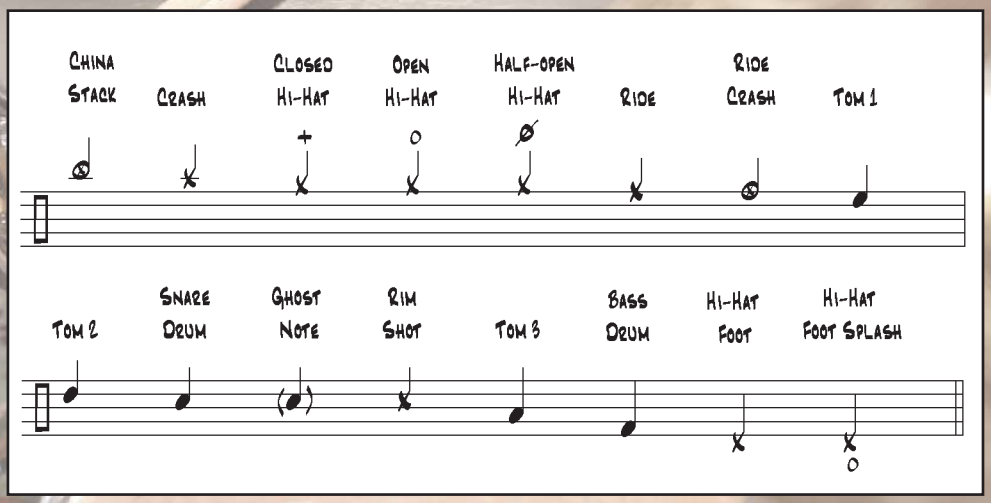
PDF Design by Joe Bergamini and Willie Rose

Photos by Andrew Lepley

DVD Produced by Paul Siegel and Rob Wallis

DRUM KEY:



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PART 1:
MASTER CLASS

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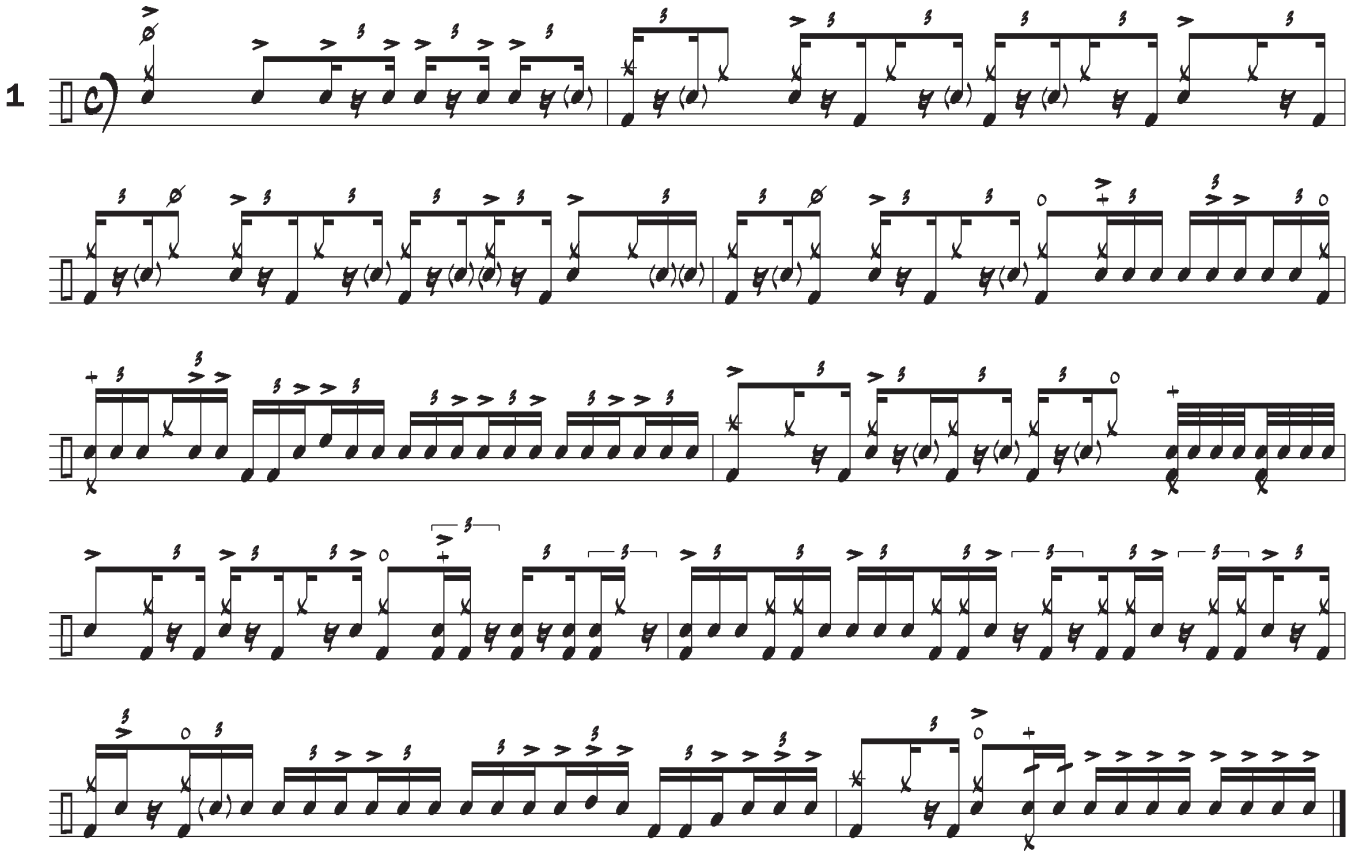
SYNCOPATED FILL DEMO

One of Aaron's signature concepts is his ability to place his fills in unconventional places. Here, he demonstrates some ideas for the placement of fills.



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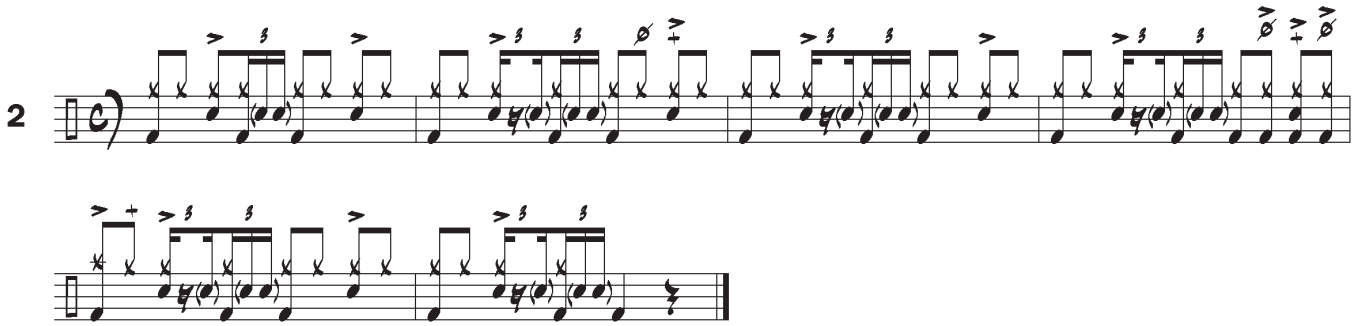
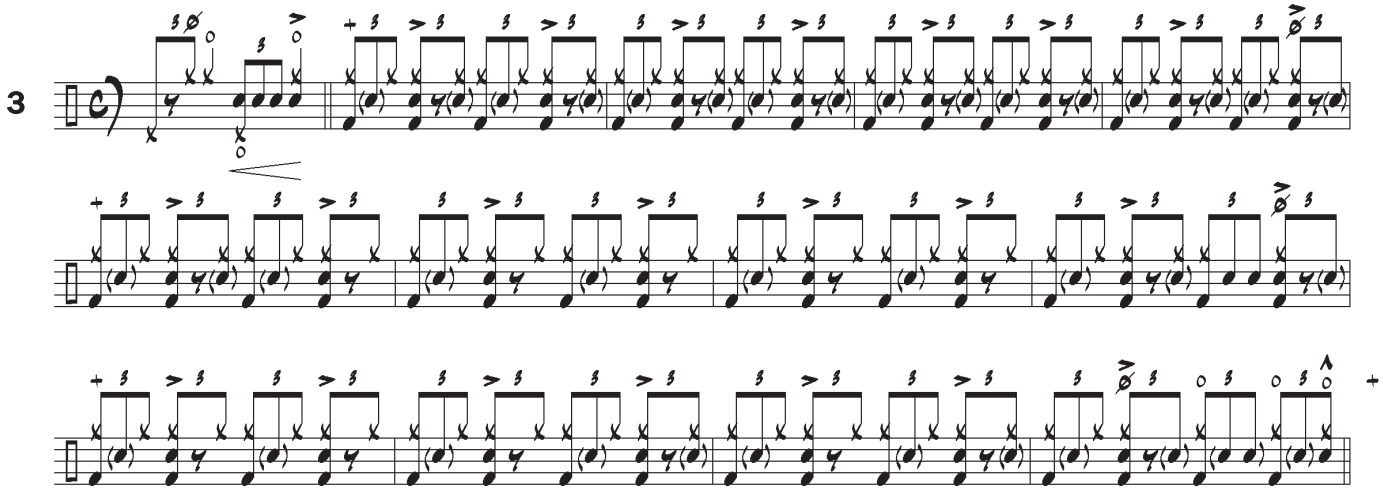
"GIVE THE LORD A PRAISE" GROOVE

Aaron plays ghosted double strokes in this groove, which is the verse of this tune.



"SLEEPING DRAGON SHUFFLE"

This transcription shows the first 12 bars of this tune, which has a traditional blue shuffle feel, played with an organ player.



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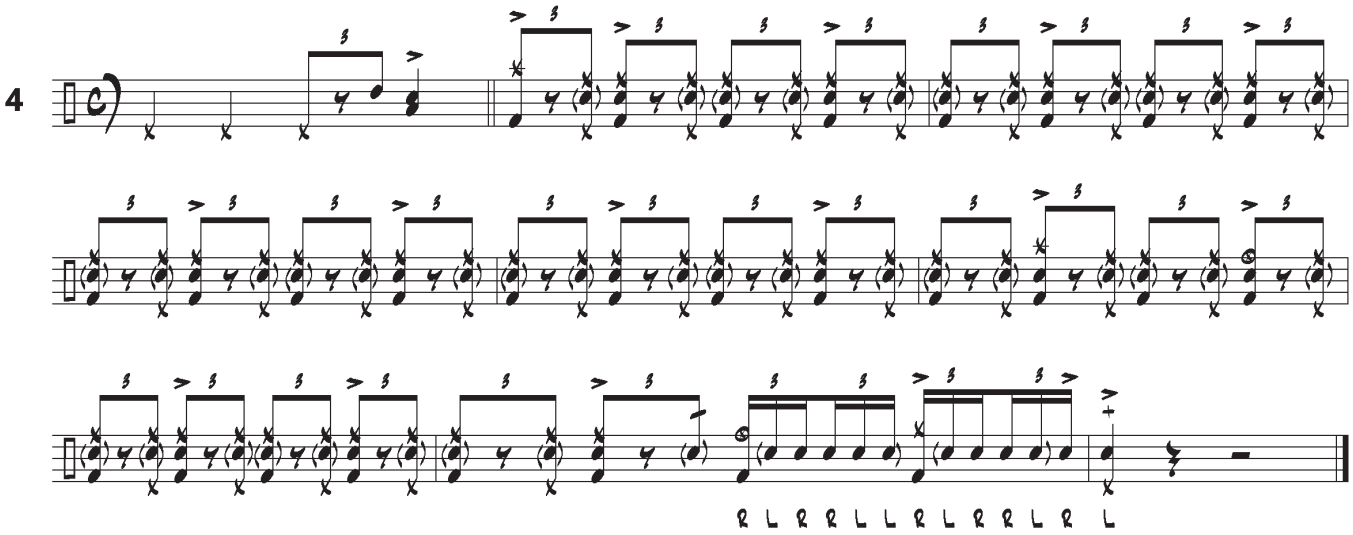
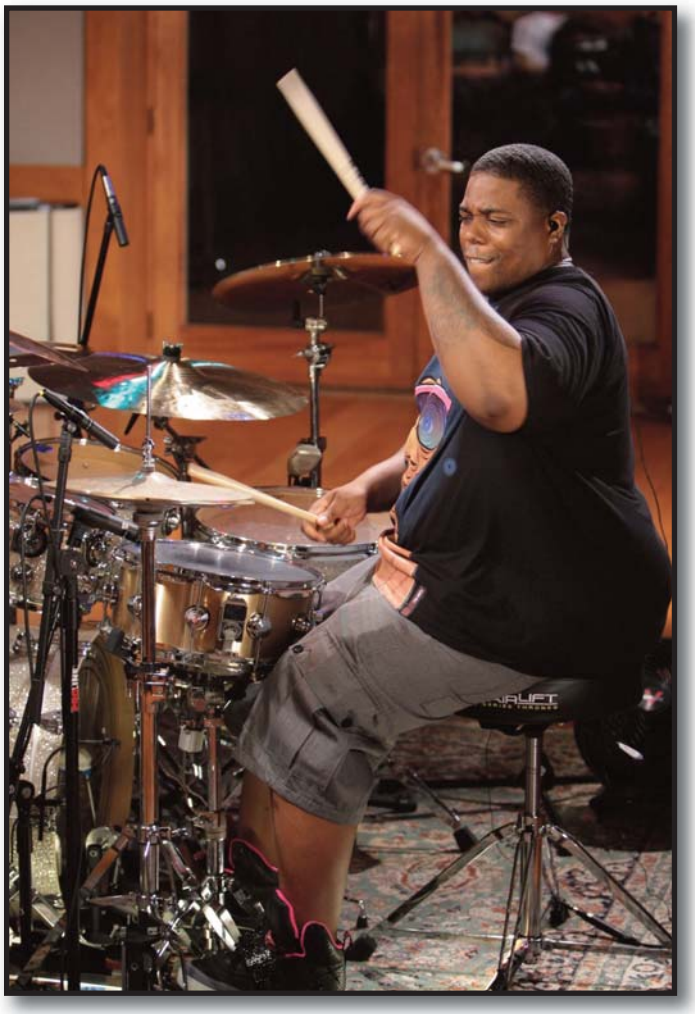
SHUFFLE GROOVE WITH OFFBEAT HI-HAT

In this groove, the left foot plays the hi-hat on the last partial of every triplet, to create a shuffle feel along with the ride. Aaron mentions hearing Steve Gadd utilize this concept.





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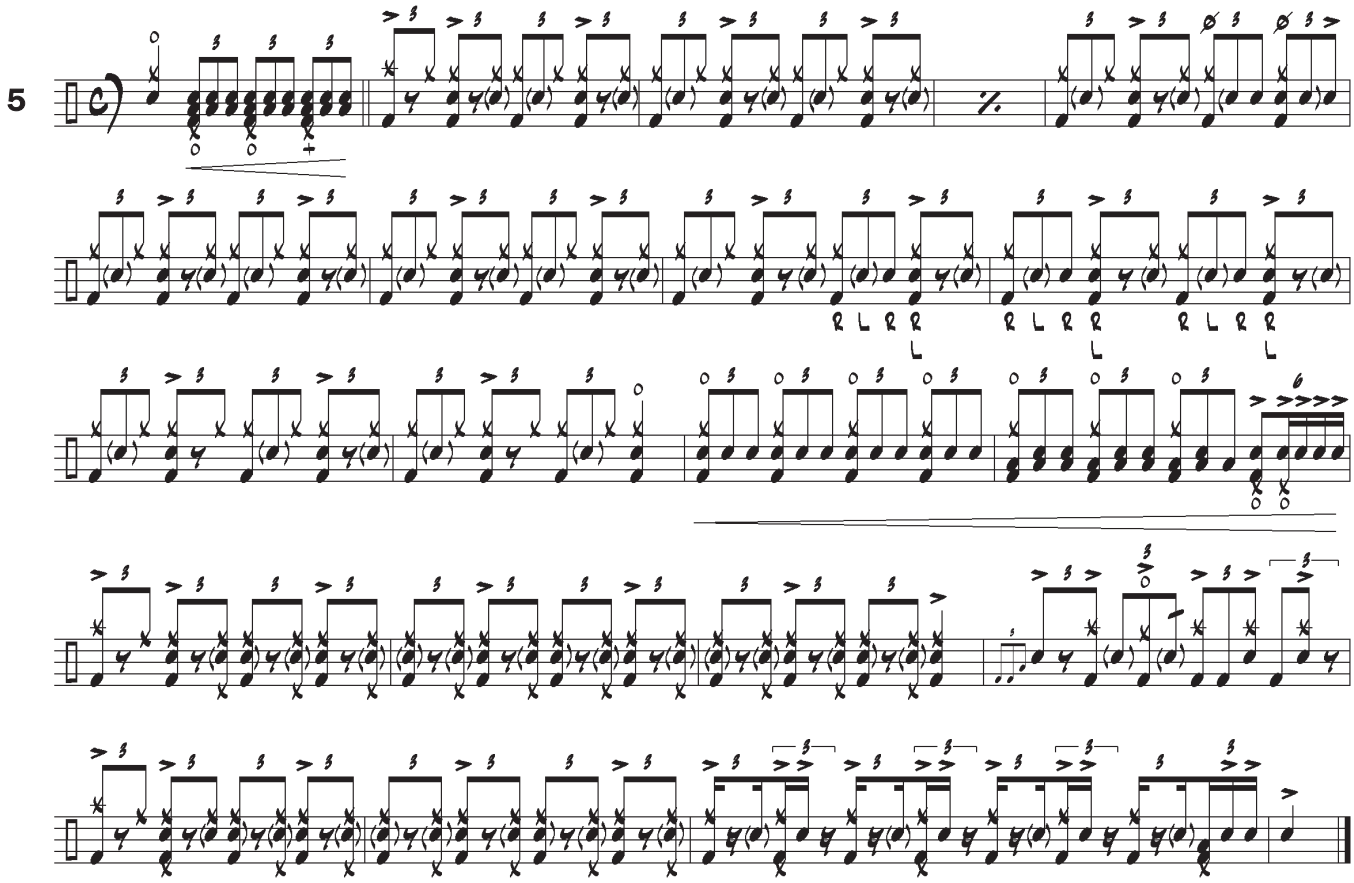
SHUFFLE VARIATIONS

Aaron demonstrates different variations on his shuffle feel in this example. Note the use of ghost notes.



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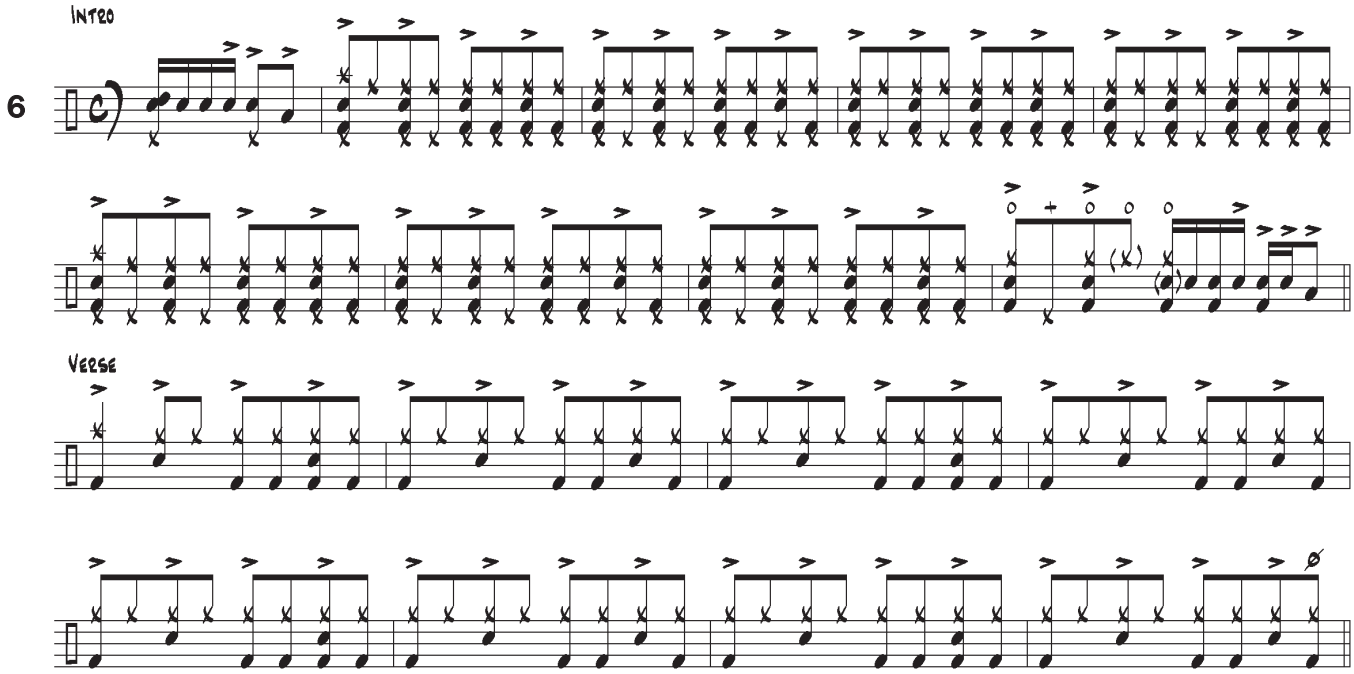
"I LOVE YOU (THAT'S WHY)"

Here is the introduction and main groove from this Motown-influenced tune. Note the use of quarter notes on the snare drum, typical of this style.



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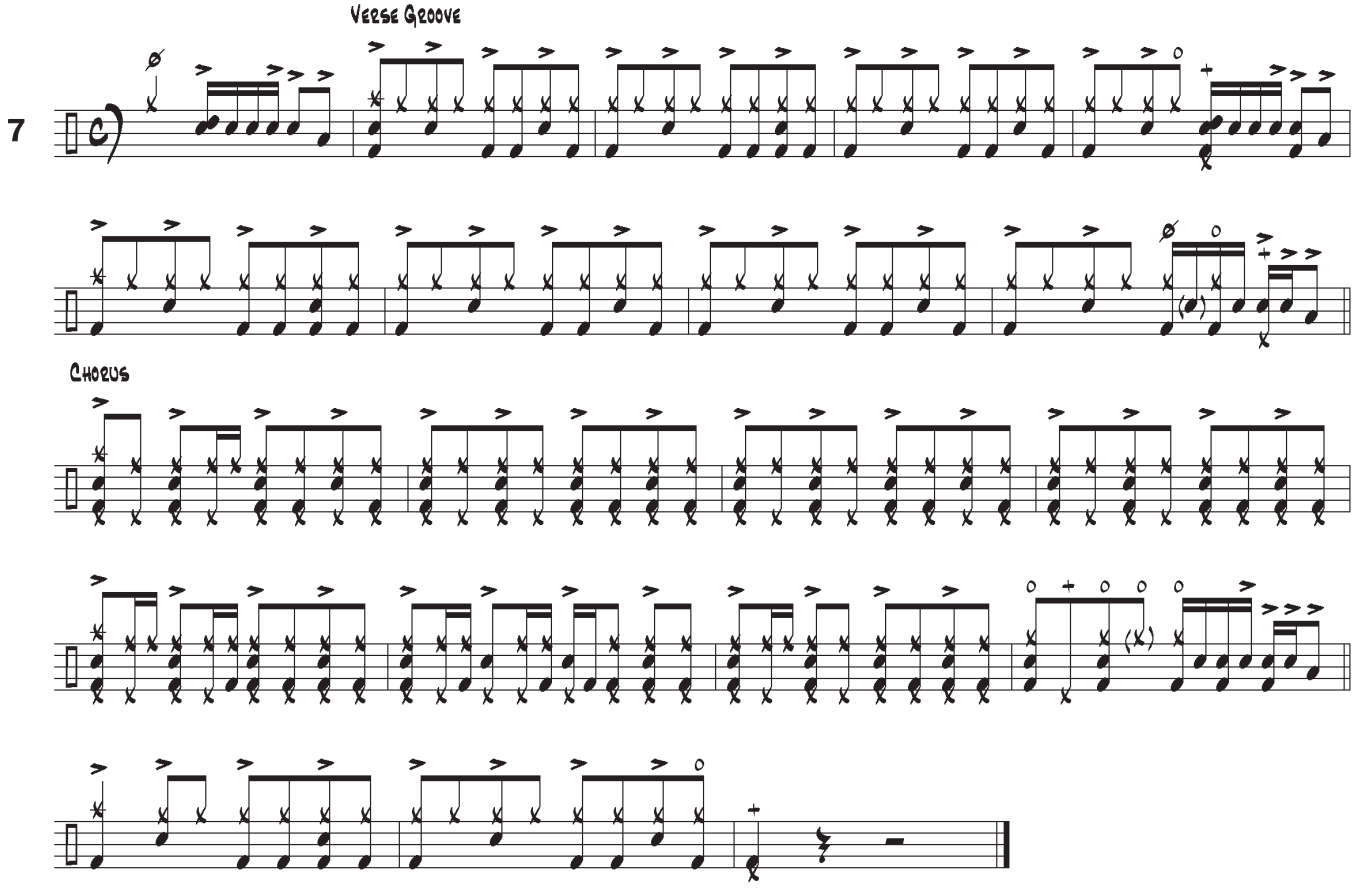
MOTOWN GROOVE CONCEPTS

In this example, Aaron demonstrates the basic verse and chorus grooves he uses on the Motown-influenced tune "I Love You (That's Why)."



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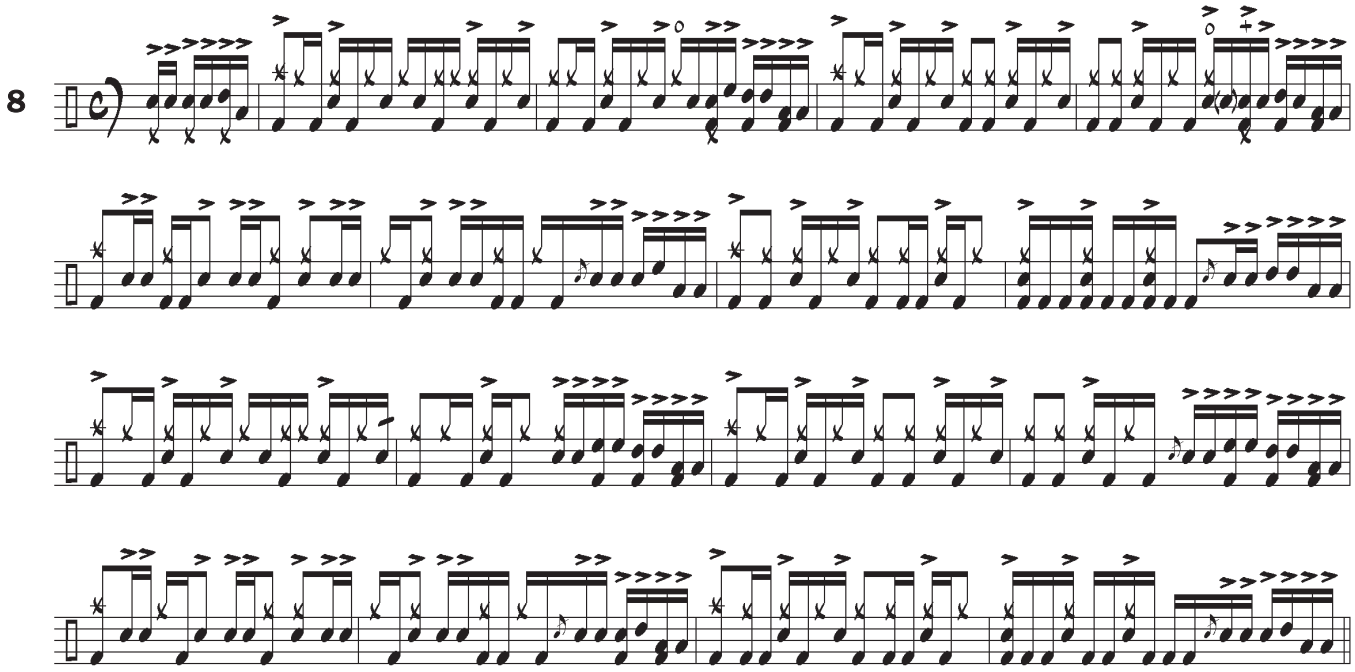
"HYPEJUICE": REAL-WORLD APPROACH

On the DVD, Aaron plays this hip-hop song in two different ways. In this first example, he performs the song the way he would if he was performing the song on an actual gig.



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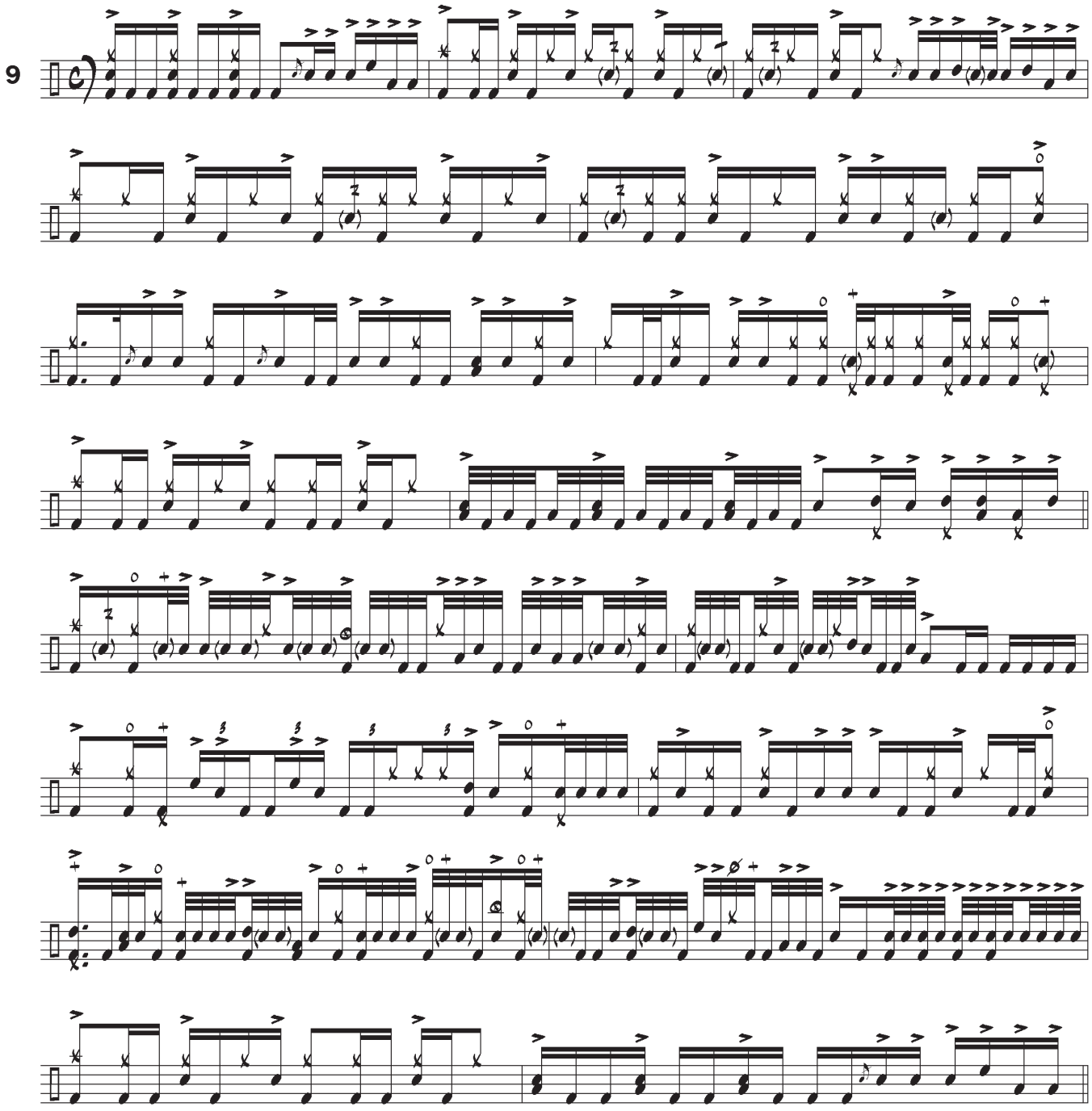
"HYPEJUICE": PRACTICE APPROACH

Aaron makes the point that he finds playing along to songs is a very effective approach to practicing. In his personal development, Aaron says that he would use his favorite tracks in place of a click, and practice developing fills and phrasing concepts while playing along to the music. He stresses that he would not actually play this way on a real gig, but finds that he can develop new ideas for fills and licks, and place them in context this way. In this next example, Aaron demonstrates how he might practice along with this tune for fun, and to work on his fills.



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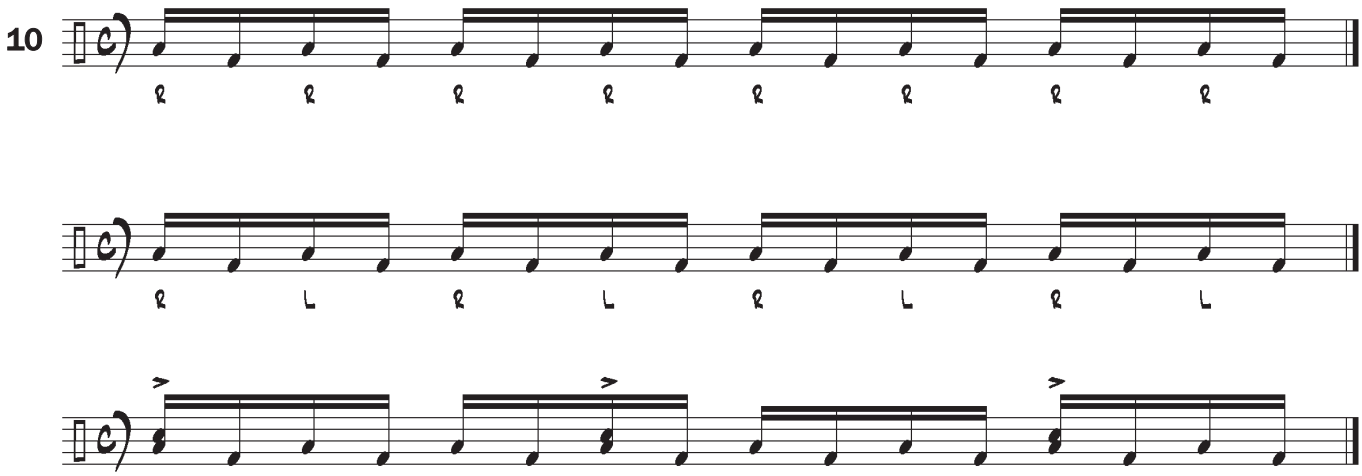
HAND/FOOT COMBO

Aaron is asked on the DVD about some of the hand/foot fill combinations he plays. Here are some of the basic concepts that he employs.



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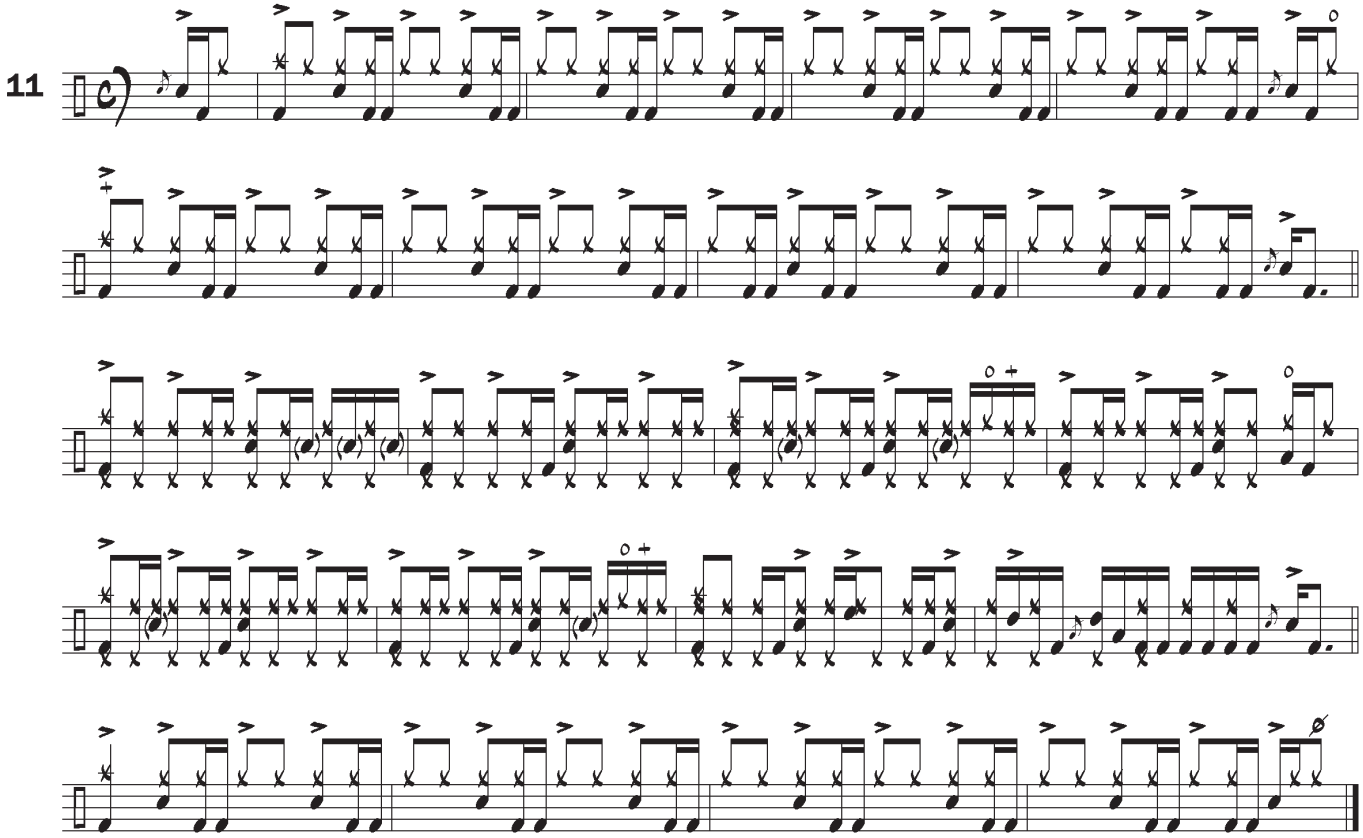
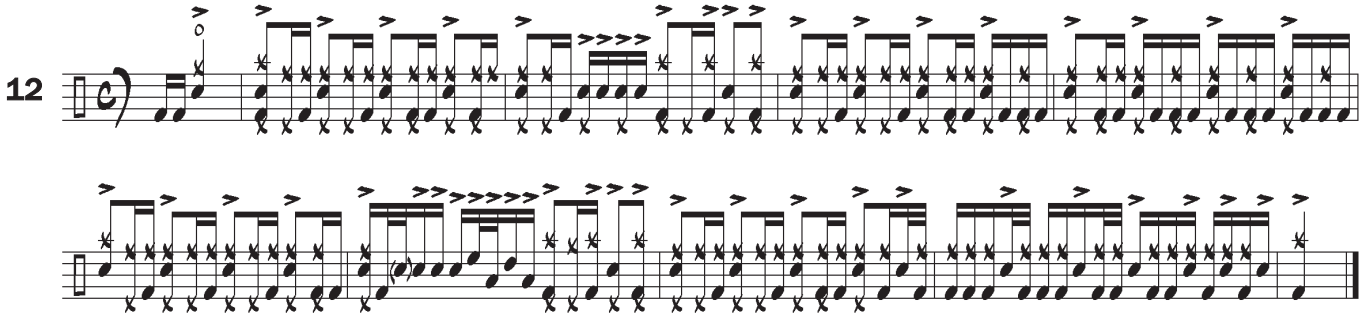
"GOLDEN ROCK" MAIN GROOVE

Aaron plays a driving rock feel on this tune.



"GOLDEN ROCK" OUTRO

Aaron increases the intensity on the outro to the tune.



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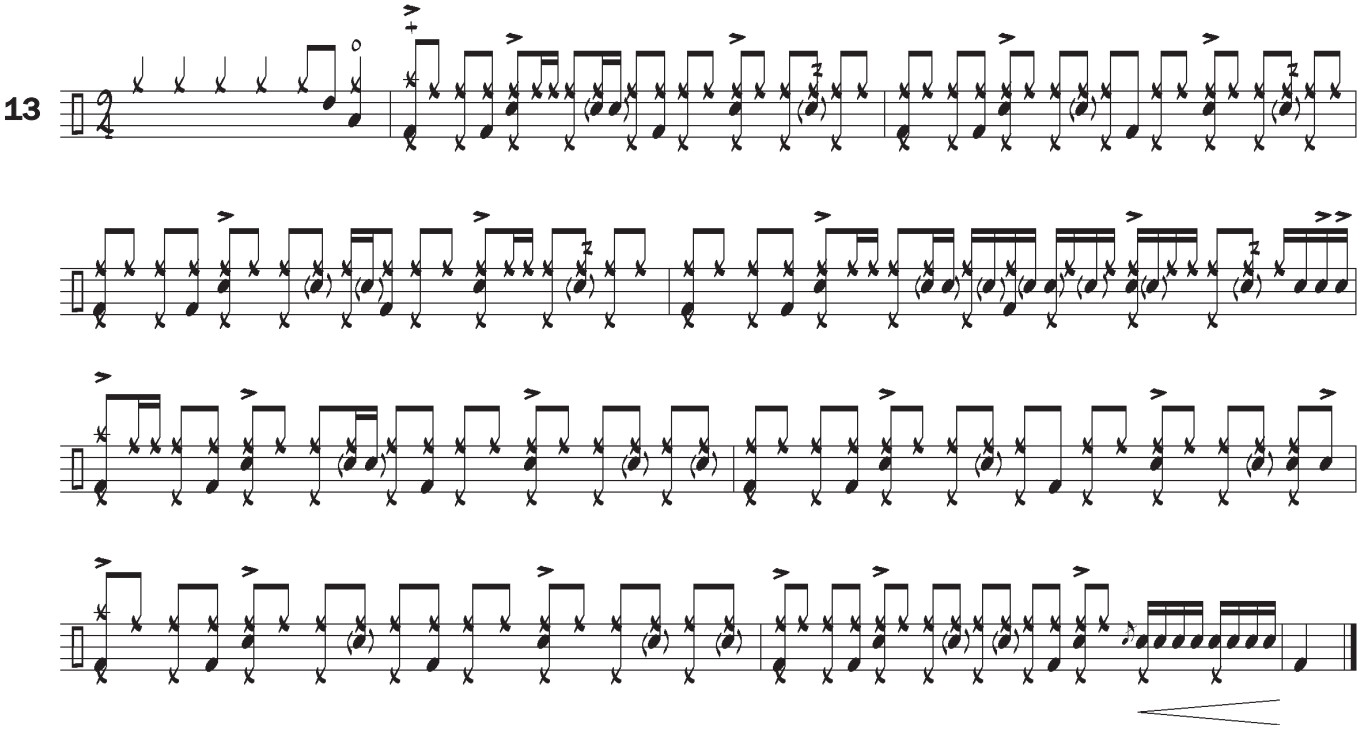
"STEREOTRONIC" MAIN GROOVE

Although this tune is in 9, when Aaron performs it, it has a relaxed, laid-back groove. Here, Aaron demonstrates the main groove concept of the song.



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PART 2:
INTERVIEW WITH JOJO MAYER

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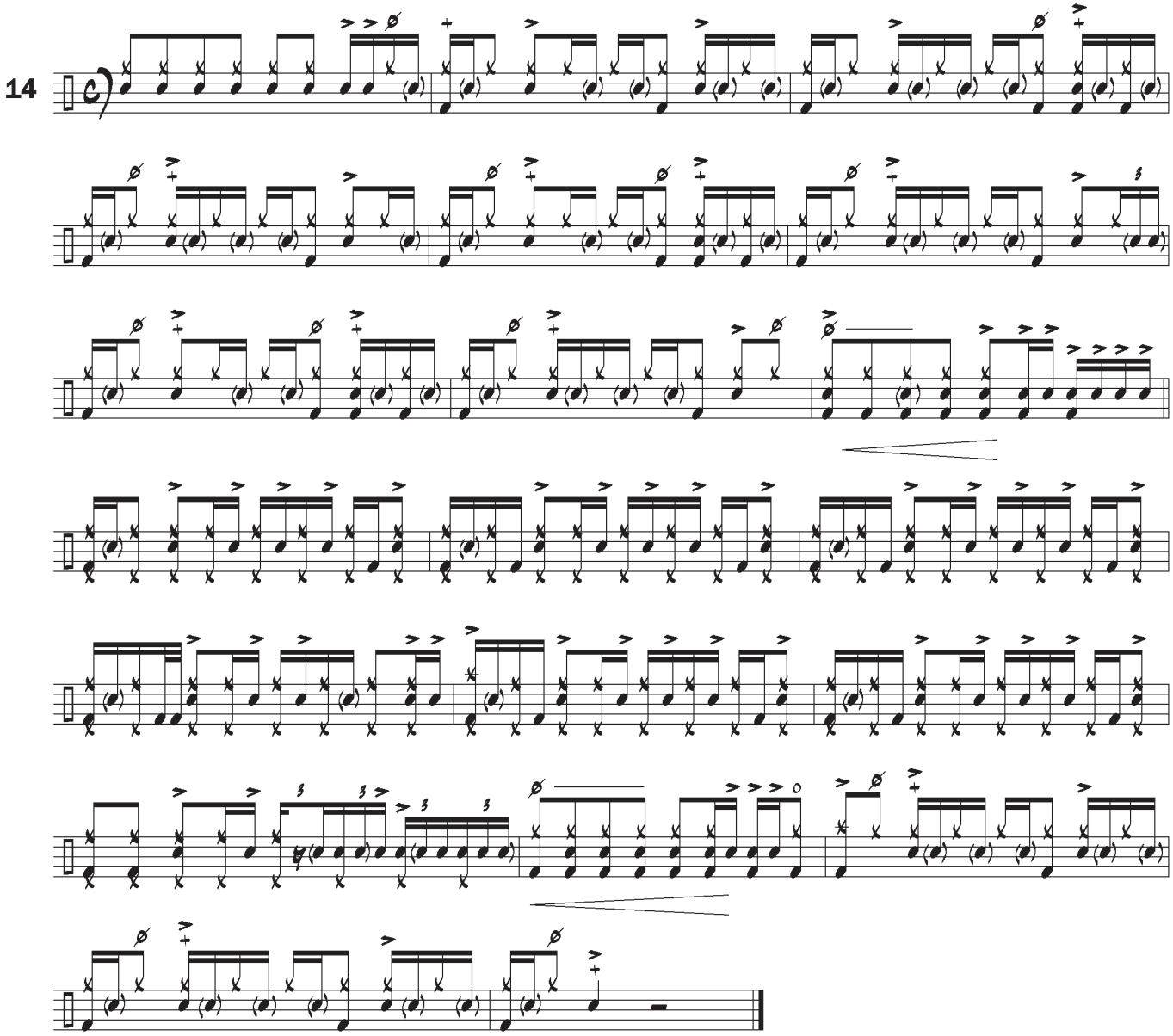
“SEX MACHINE” GROOVE

Here is Aaron’s interpretation of the classic James Brown tune. The sixteenths are slightly swung. Aaron performed this tune at the Grammy awards with Usher and James Brown himself.



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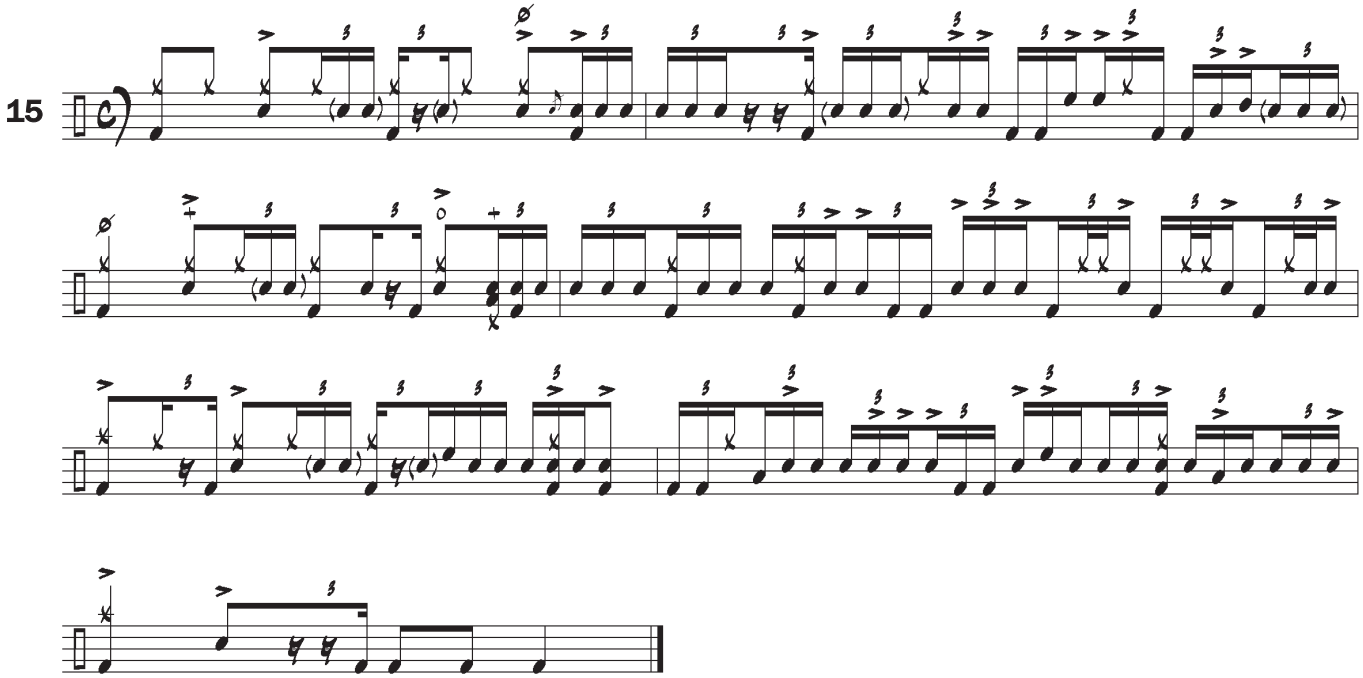
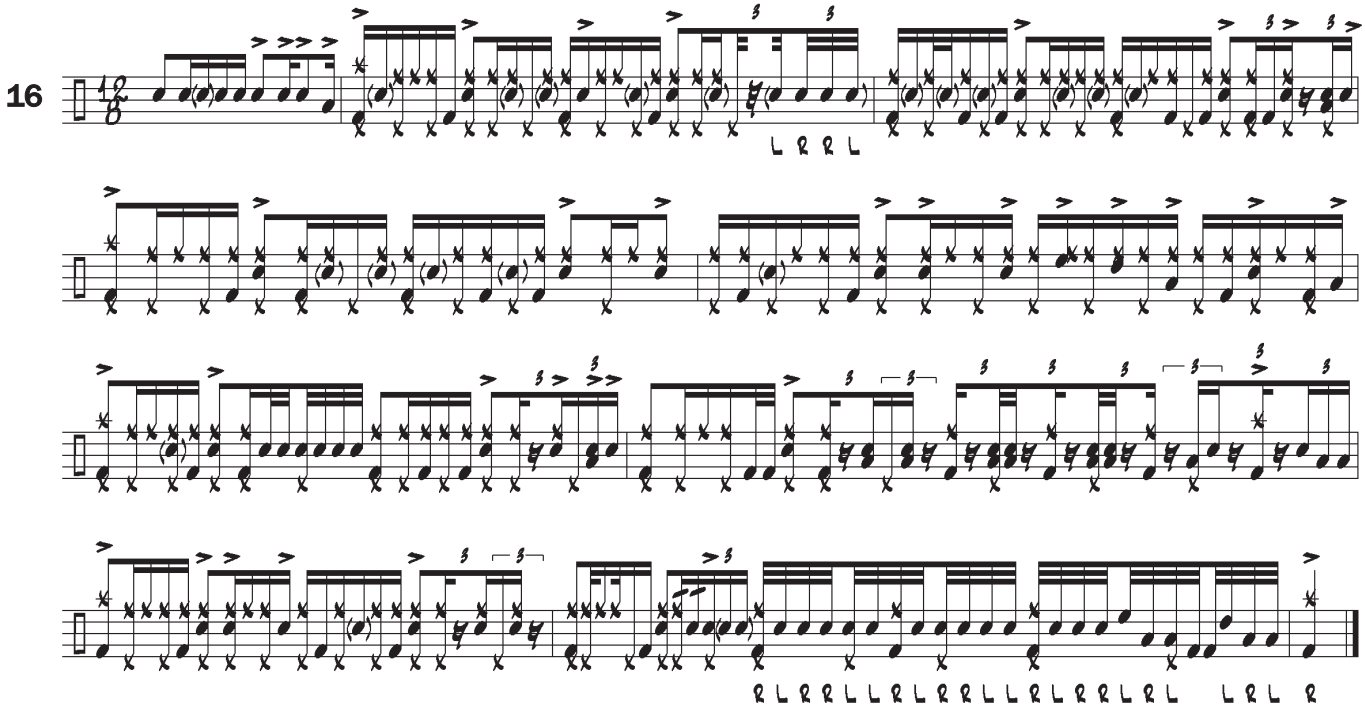
BROKEN-TIME FILLS

Aaron demonstrates this example for Jojo when asked about the way he hears some of his signature fills, which have a very complex time feel, sometimes disguising the 1.



SLOW GROOVES

Locking into a deep pocket at a slow tempo can be very challenging. On the DVD, Jojo asks Aaron to demonstrate some slow grooves. This first example is a groove that could be played in a 12/8 ballad.



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Although Jojo counts it off in 3, the next example is most clearly written in 6/4. This is an example of a groove that Aaron might play for a slow song in 3.

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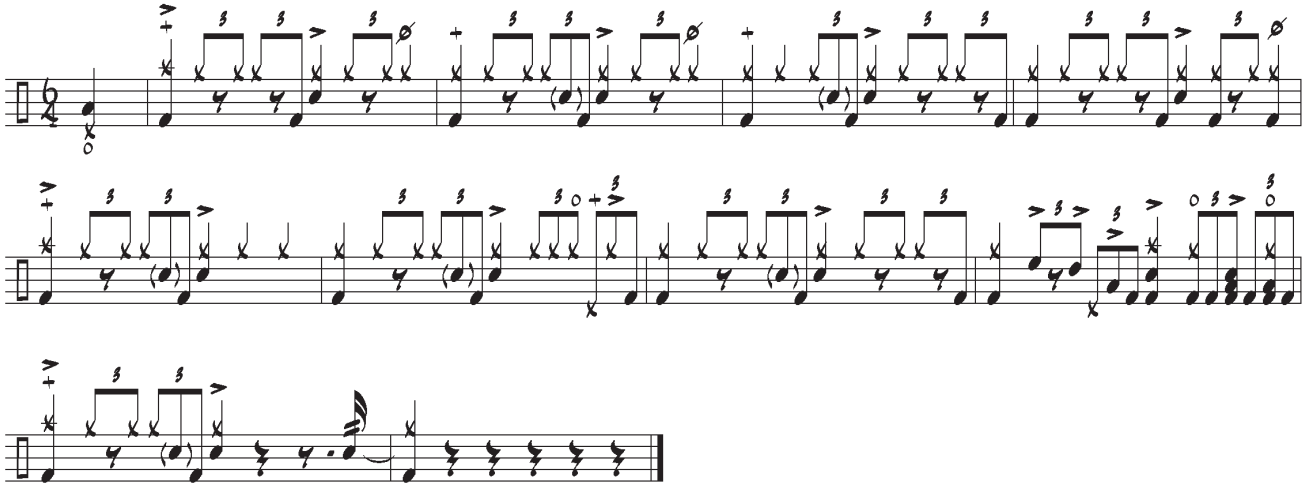

NEW JACK SWING/ SHUFFLE GROOVE

Jojo asks Aaron to demonstrate a groove with a shuffle feel in the New Jack Swing style. The shuffle feel in this groove is narrower than a traditional shuffle; it is between straight and swung. This exercise could also be written out as triplets; be sure to listen to the DVD to understand the feel.

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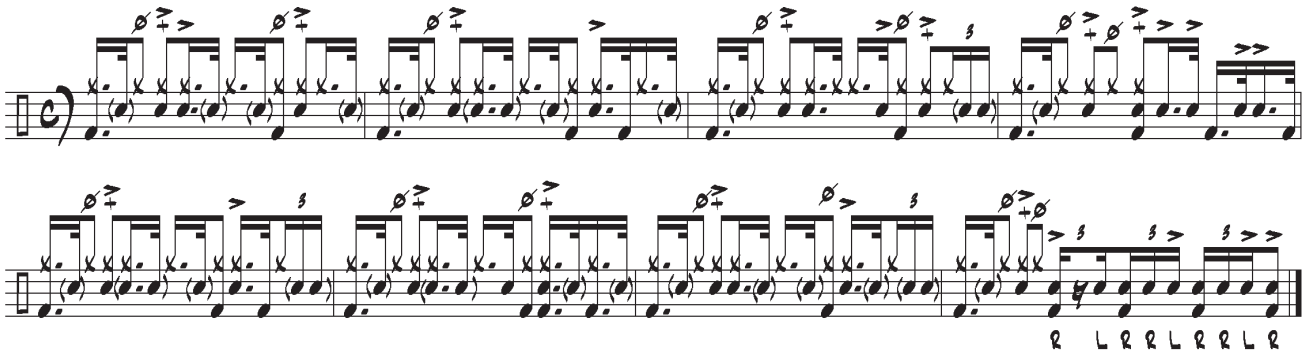

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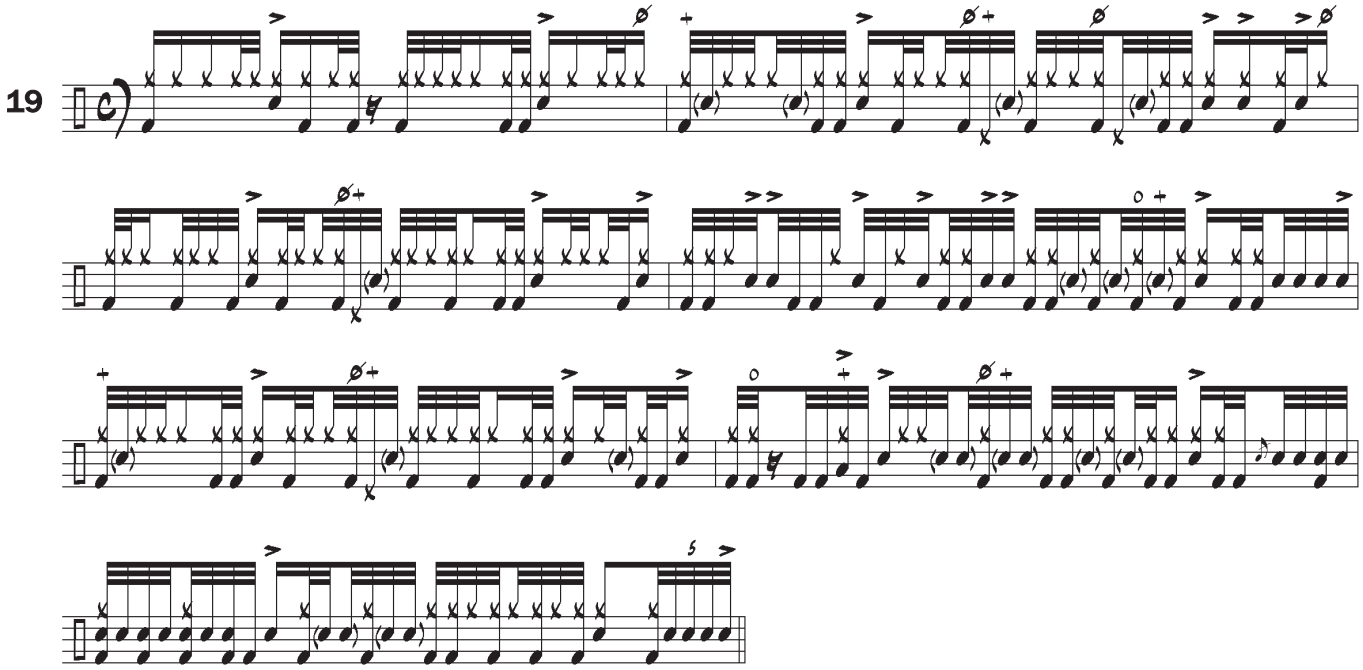
BOUNCE BEAT

The last example is a “bounce” beat, similar to a groove Aaron played on a song with the Gideon Band. The intent here is to emulate the feel of a drum machine.



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DVD CREDITS

Produced by Paul Siegel and Rob Wallis

Directed by Rob Wallis

Co-produced by Greg McKean and Joe Bergamini

Edited by Greg McKean

Conceptual consultant and interviewer: JoJo Mayer

Still Photographer: Andrew Lepley
Drum Tech: Kris Castillo
Bonus/Behind-the-Scenes Footage Fimed & Edited by: Don Seven Setzer
PDF eBook Transcriptions by: Willie Rose
PDF eBook Edited by: Joe Bergamini
PDF eBook Layout & Design by: Joe Bergamini and Willie Rose
Filmed at Bennett Studios, Englewood, NJ, May 27 & 28, 2009

MUSIC

"Give The Lord A Praise"
Written by Cornelius Berkeley and Edward Henderson
Published by GMG World Media Publishing (ASCAP)
Performed by the Gideon Band:
Nate Fields (bass), Steve Walker (guitar)
© 2009 Cornelius Berkeley and Edward Henderson

"Sleeping Dragon Shuffle"
Written by Arthur Strong
Published by Strongsoundz LLC (ASCAP)
Performed by Arthur "Buddy" Strong (organ)
© 2009 Strongsoundz LLC

"I Love You (That's Why)"
Written by Levi B. Stephens (ASCAP), Isaac L. Lewis (ASCAP), and Warren K. Jones (ASCAP)
Published by Kollectdoe Publishing (ASCAP)
Performed by Levi B. Stephens (guitar), Tyler Sherman (bass guitar), all other instruments Levi B. Stephens and Warren K. Jones
© 2009 Levi B. Stephens, Isaac L. Lewis and Warren K. Jones

"Golden Rock"
Written by Dory Lobel
Published by Kobalt Music
Performed by Dory Lobel (all instruments)
© 2009 Dory Lobel

"HypeJuice"
Written by Warryn Campbell
Published by Wetink Red Music (ASCAP/EMI)
Performed by Warryn Campbell (all instruments)
© 2009 Warryn Campbell

"Stereotronic"
Written by Christopher Leach
Published by Leach 2 Good Music
Performed by Reger (Ross) Smith (bass), Christopher Leach (keyboards/programming), and Juan "Natural" Najera (guitars)
© 2009 Leach 2 Good Music

Aaron Spears plays DW Drums, Zildjian Cymbals, Remo Drumheads, and Vic Firth Drumsticks

Aaron's Special Thanks:
I would first like to thank God for trusting me with this gift of music that will hopefully touch and inspire everyone who comes in contact with it.

I want to thank my Mom, my Dad, my Valentine Jessica, my family, and my FK*M fam that support me and share me with the rest of the world.It's your love and support that keeps me grounded and allows me to fly high at the same time.

I also want to that Paul Siegel, Rob Wallis, and all the amazing people at Hudson for believing and helping me to fulfill a lifelong dream. A huge thank you to Jojo Mayer for lending his insight and creative energy to this project. Also thanks to the good people at DW Drums, Zildjian Cymbals, Remo Drumheads, VicFirth Drumsticks, Toca Percussion, PureSound Percussion and Logic(Apple).

To every single person around the world who has ever looked at a clip of me on YouTube or other DVDs: It's your love and admiration (and even the hate) for what I do that keeps me pushing to make myself better. From my heart, I thank you.

-Aaron

For additional footage of Aaron Spears, as well as other video clips and educational features, and information about the entire Hudson catalog, please visit www.hudsonmusic.com

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Jason Bittner: What Drives The Beat	1 disc • 3 hrs : 00 mins
John Blackwell: Master Series	1 disc • 2 hrs : 26 mins
John Blackwell: Technique, Grooving and Showmanship	2 discs • 3 hrs : 15 mins
Classic Jazz Drummers	1 disc • 1 hr : 10 mins
Classic Jazz Solos Volume One	1 disc • 1 hr : 00 mins
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Peter Erskine: Live at Jazz Baltica	1 disc • 1 hr : 15 mins
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Steve Gadd: The Master Series	1 disc • 2 hrs : 20 mins
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Lionel Hampton: Jazz Legend	1 disc • 1 hr : 10 mins
Horacio Hernandez: MD Festival 2000	1 disc • 1 hr : 05 mins
Tommy Igoe: Getting Started on Drums	1 disc • 2 hrs : 20 mins
Tommy Igoe: Groove Essentials 1.0	1 disc • 3 hrs : 40 mins
Tommy Igoe: Groove Essentials 2.0	1 disc • 3 hrs : 45 mins
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Thomas Lang: Creative Coordination	3 discs • 7hrs : 00 mins
Modern Drummer: Festival 2006 - saturday	2 discs • 6 hrs : 20 mins
Modern Drummer: Festival 2006 - sunday	2 discs • 6 hrs : 30 mins
Modern Drummer: Festival 2006 - complete	4 discs • 12 hrs : 50 mins
Modern Drummer: Festival 2005	3 discs • 7 hrs : 10 mins
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Modern Drummer: Festival 2000	1 disc • 2 hrs : 50 mins
Jeff Queen: Playing with Sticks	1 disc • 4 hrs : 00 mins
Mike Portnoy: In Constant Motion	3 discs • 7hrs : 00 mins
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Buddy Rich: At The Top	1 disc • 1 hr : 30 mins
Antonio Sanchez: The Master Series	1 disc • 2 hrs : 53 mins
Steve Smith: Drumset Technique/U.S. Beat	2 discs • 4 hrs : 40 mins
Steve Smith: Drum Legacy (with play-along CD)	2 discs • 5 hrs : 00 mins
Smith/Nussbaum: The Art of Playing with Brushes (w/CD)	2 discs • 7 hrs : 16 mins
Ultimate Drummers Weekend 10	1 disc • 3 hrs : 55 mins
Ultimate Drummers Weekend 11	1 disc • 3 hrs : 40 mins

HUDSON LIMITED DVDs

Chris Coleman: Playing with Precision and Power	1 disc • 1 hr : 57 mins
Drumbassadors: Volume 1	1 disc • 1 hr : 15 mins
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Gavin Harrison: Rhythmic Visions	1 disc • 2 hrs : 20 mins
KoSA Live/2006	1 disc • 4 hrs : 40 mins
Phil Maturano: Afro-Cuban Drumming...	1 disc • 2 hrs : 11 mins
Russ Miller: Arrival - Behind The Glass (w/2 CDs)	1 disc • 3 hrs : 20 mins
Jojo Mayer: Secret Weapons/Modern Drummer	2 discs • 3 hrs : 00 mins
Pat Petrillo: Hands, Groove & Fills (dvd+book+cd)	1 disc • 3 hrs : 00 mins
Ultimate Drummers Weekend 2004	2 discs • 6 hrs : 00 mins

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Jimmy Branly: Afro-Cuban Drumming	book+cd
Vera Figueirado: Vera Cruz Island	book+2 cds
David Garibaldi: The Code of Funk	book+cd+dvd-rom
Tommy Igoe: Groove Essentials 1.0 Play Along	book+cd
Tommy Igoe: Groove Essentials 2.0 Play Along	book+cd
Thomas Lang: Creative Control	book+cd
Thomas Lang: Creative Coordination	book+cd
Steve Kilgallon: Turn It Up/Double Pedal Metal	book+cd
Pete Lockett: Indian Rhythms For The Drumset	book+cd
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