

DAILY DRUM LESSON

by Wojtek Deregowski

November 2020 “Linear grooves & fills”

“Linear” in my thinking is an expression strictly connected with theory. It means that all the instruments are played separately, in other words we avoid hitting two or more instruments at the same time.

This concept allows us to make our parts more interesting and be more efficient but on the other hand makes them a bit less colorful and takes back some sounds. We have to keep a balance between these two sides. My idea here is to blend “linear” playing with the traditional approach. I’ll show you how!

Let’s start with the basic concept - play a groove with 8th note hi hat and the snare on 2 and 4.

GROOVE 1.1



To make it linear let's place the strongest parts of the groove (bass drum and snare drum) into the 16th note grid (since the smallest subdivision that appears here is 16th notes). This allows us to clearly see the placement of the notes within the pulse.

GRID PLACEMENT 1.1

	1	e	+	a	2	e	+	a	3	e	+	a	4	e	+	a
werbel					O								O			
stopa	O							O		O	O					

Then fill the spaces between these notes. The most obvious way to do that is to use hi hat. We have a freedom in sticking but at this stage I recommend to stay with the right hand on the hi hat and with the left one on the snare. This will spare us some complications for now.

GRID PLACEMENT 1.2

	1	e	+	a	2	e	+	a	3	e	+	a	4	e	+	a
hi hat		x	x	x		x	x		x			x		x	x	x
werbel					O								O			
stopa	O							O		O	O					

GROOVE 1.2

K R R R L R R K R K K R L R R R

Another way to fill those spaces is to use not only the hi hat but also some ghost notes played on the snare. This way we achieve a new sound and dynamic layer that makes the groove more interesting.

GRID PLACEMENT 1.3

	1	e	+	a	2	e	+	a	3	e	+	a	4	e	+	a
hi hat			x	x		x	x		x			x		x	x	
werbel		(o)			O								O			(o)
stopa	O							O		O	O					

GROOVE 1.3

K L R R L R R K R K K R L R R L

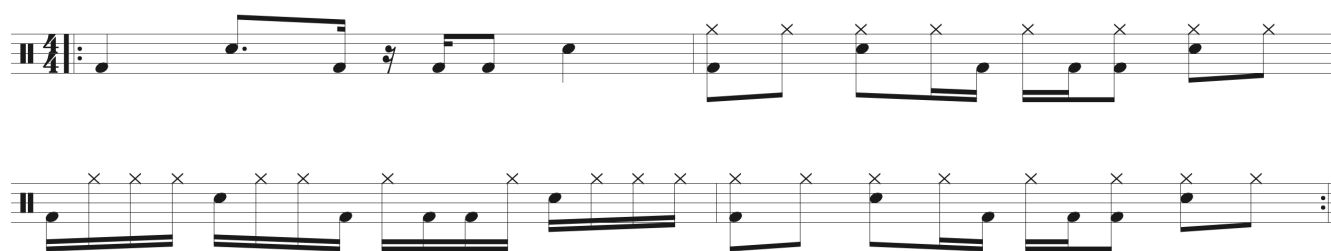
So we played the same groove but made it sound a bit different and more interesting thanks to linear concept. See another way to orchestrate the sticking.

GROOVE 1.4

K L R K L R L R R L K R L K R L

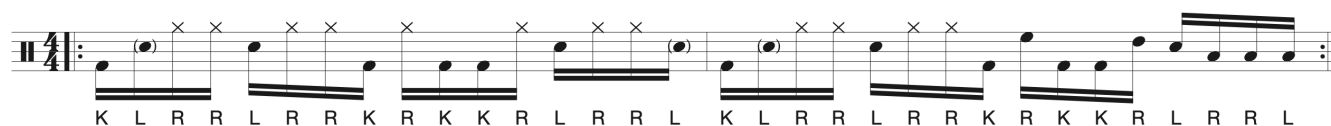
A perfect exercise for a smooth transition between the traditional 8th note and linear groove is alternating them every one or couple bars. Start with just the base - bass drum and snare drum set in time. The next phrase is an 8th note groove and then its linear version. To keep an even number of bars in the whole loop let's repeat the 8th note version. Once you feel comfortable it's nice to shorten the phrase to practice just the transition.

EXERCISE 1



What I really like to use in my daily playing is the linear concept in drum fills. It's really easy to play an interesting fill that perfectly matches the linear groove. All you need to do is place your hands on different instruments using the groove sticking. It's simple and effective! See examples.

DRUM FILL 1



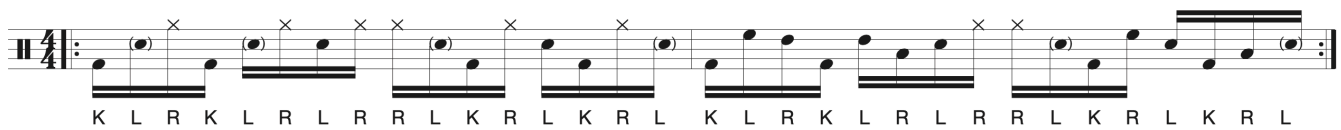
Of course it's just one of many ways to create a fill here. You may use different orchestration, vary dynamics... In my drumming I really like to keep the drive of the groove by placing the snare drum backbeats on 2 and 4 just like in the groove.

In case the snare is syncopated I also keep it in the fill, take a look!

GROOVE 2



DRUM FILL 2



I really recommend to use the linear concept on the daily basics but remember that we usually want to blend this idea with the traditional approach. Let's keep it tasty and balanced!

WEEKLY CHALLENGE 1

Pick 3 favorite 8th note grooves of yours. Create a linear version for every one of them using the method given in the lesson.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE 2

Approach creating the groove another way - write down the sticking of the 16th note sequence. Orchestrate it using kick, snare and hi hat ((also using dynamic change - ghost notes and accents). See example:

KLRK LRRL KRRR LRL



WEEKLY CHALLENGE 3

Take the grooves you've created in the previous challenges and think of 2 fills for every one of them using the concept given in the lesson.

Feel free to send me your ideas!



Wojtek Deregowski
wojtek.dailydrumlesson@gmail.com