

Downbeat Figures

Short Sounds

When an ensemble plays short sounds, it is important to match them with short sounds on the drumset. The rim-shot is probably the most effective tool, however, closed hi hat or choked cymbal provide other possibilities. When playing rim-shots on the snare drum, be careful not to accent the ride cymbal with the other hand. This will make a short sound into a long sound. Short sounds often come as surprises in the music, and require little in the way of preparation from the drums. Perform the following figures using the snare drum rim-shot. A slight bass drum accent on the beat preceding the ensemble accent is all that is required for the set-up.

1. SWING

2. SWING

3. SWING

4. SWING

CD 1
Track 3/4

5. SWING

CD 1
T 4/5

6. SWING

The Downbeat Blues

Practicing long & short downbeat figures

Tom Morgan

CD 1
T 29/30

RHYTHM SECTION

SWING

A

(FIG. 5 2ND TIME)

(2ND TIME)

B TENOR SOLO

PLAY 12 BARS

C

D

TPT SOLO

PLAY 8 BARS

E

D.S. AL CODA
(REPEAT GOOD)

CODA

Combo parts to THE DOWNBEAT BLUES
are available from C. Alan Publications

More Ensemble Figures

As figures become more compressed (more notes in less time), the basic fills must be modified such as in the following examples:

CAN BE PLAYED

R L L R L

NOW USE THIS SAME FILL TO PLAY THE FOLLOWING:

1.

D1
87/88

CAN BE PLAYED

R L L R L L L R L

NOW USE THIS SAME FILL TO PLAY THE FOLLOWING:

2.

D1
89/90