

THE 3 BAR CYCLE

WE CONTINUE NOW APPLYING CYCLES TO YOUR VOCABULARY. THIS PARTICULAR PHRASE IS ONE OF MY FAVORITES. THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN START TO WORK WITH IT. IT MIGHT BE EASIER TO LEARN IF YOU START WITH YOUR HANDS.

EXERCISES 1:

PLAY A CONSISTENT PULSE WITH YOUR HI HAT FOOT EITHER ON THE HI HAT OR CLAVE PEDAL. THEN ON THE SNARE, PLAY THE PHRASE. THIS GIVES YOU A CHANCE TO HEAR THE "MELODY" OF THE PHRASE OVER A SIMPLE PULSE.

AUDIO EX. 1
REPEATED 4X'S

DRUMS: A) SLOW B) FAST SIDESTICK

PERCUSSION: HH OR CLAVE PEDAL

(NO AUDIO) NOW TRY IT WITH THE BASS DRUM.

DR. SD

PERC. HH OR CLAVE PEDAL

NOW LETS TRY IT WITH THE CLAVE. IN ORDER TO TRAIN YOURSELF TO PLAY WITH CLAVE, AGAIN IT IS ALWAYS BEST TO KEEP IN MIND IT'S STRUCTURE. IN THIS CASE WE WILL NOW NEED TO PLAY THE PHRASE FOR 6 MEASURES. THAT WAY THE PHRASE CYCLES OUT AND LINES UP WITH THE 2 MEASURE PHRASE OF THE CLAVE.

AUDIO EX. 2
REPEATED 4X'S

DR. SD

PERC. HH OR CLAVE PEDAL

DR. SD

PERC. HH OR CLAVE PEDAL

NOW LETS TAKE THAT IDEA AND EXPAND ON IT.

- 1) PLAY THE BASIC CYCLE ON THE RIDE CYMBAL. PLAY ALL THE NOTES OF THE CYCLE ALONG WITH YOUR BASS DRUM.
- 2) WITH THE LEFT HAND, PLAY ALL THE NOTES IN BETWEEN THE MELODY OF THE PHRASE.

AUDIO EX. 3

DR. RIDE SN SD

PERC. HH OR CLAVE PEDAL

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PERC. HH OR CLAVE PEDAL

YOUR LAST STEP IS TO ADD THE CLAVE..

A COUPLE OF TIPS BEFORE TRYING TO DO THIS EXERCISE.

1) TRY TO MEMORIZE THE MELODY OF THE CYCLE IN RELATION TO A CONSTANT PULSE. (EXERCISE 1)

2) THEN SLOWLY MEMORIZE THE BASS DRUM MELODY IN RELATION TO THE CLAVE (EXERCISE 2).

MY FINAL TIP...PLAY ONE MEASURE AT A TIME, LOOPED! THEN SLOWLY STRING THE FIRST 2 MEASURES TOGETHER. THEN ADD THE 3RD AND 4TH MEASURE ETC ETC...

ALSO, TRY TO NOTICE WHERE THE CLAVE IS FALLING IN RELATION TO YOUR OTHER LIMBS. IN OTHER WORDS TRY TO NOTICE WHEN LIMBS ARE PLAYING TOGETHER. LIKE IN THE FIRST MEASURE OF THIS EXERCISE. THE SECOND NOTE OF THE SNARE IS FALLING TOGETHER WITH THE FIRST NOTE OF THE CLAVE. (ON THE "AND") ETC...

IT CAN BE VERY DIFFICULT TO JUST JUMP IN AND TRY TO PLAY ALL THIS. YOU WILL NEED TO REALLY BREAK THINGS DOWN AND TAKE IT STEP BY STEP. THAT'S HOW I STARTED! SLOWLY, WITH LOTS OF LOVE AND PATIENCE.

AUDIO EX. 3

DR. RIDE SN

PERC. BD HH OR CLAVE PEDAL

REPEATED 4x's

THE LAST AUDIO EXAMPLE ON THE CD IS PLAYED FASTER WITH SOME TIME UP FRONT. SO THAT YOU CAN GET AN IDEA OF WHAT THIS MIGHT SOUND LIKE IN A GROOVE CONTEXT. AGAIN...THE MAIN THING TO REMEMBER IN ALL THESE EXERCISES IS THAT THEY ARE EXERCISES:-) TO APPLY THEM IN A MUSICAL CONTEXT YOU WILL HAVE TO USE YOUR EARS AND MAKE SURE THAT THE RIGHT MUSICAL MOMENT ARRIVES. THE GREAT THING ABOUT THE PHRASES IS THAT THEY ARE VERY COMMON IN THE MUSIC. SO YOU WILL DEFINITELY DRAW FROM THEM AT SOME POINT.

A GOZAR!!
PHIL M