TONY COLEMAN

Authentic Blues Drumming

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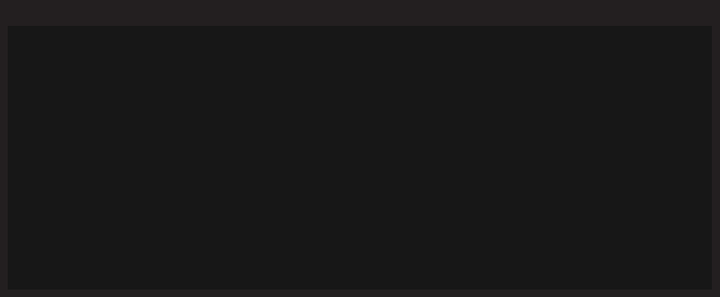

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Introduction

For as long as I can remember, I always wanted to be a drummer. For me as a child, it didn't matter what type of music or artist; I just loved music and wanted to be a drummer.

Fast forward to many years of serious hard work and pursuing my goal of a professional music career. I ended up playing drums with the world's greatest blues and soul musicians and fulfilled my dreams.

In my experience of playing the blues, one of the most important things to do—after learning to play solidly, with consistency, and in time—is to learn the blues shuffle.

The shuffles that I'm about to share with you in this video and book are what made my career and the artists that I played with extremely happy.

First and foremost, I would like you to understand that what I am explaining to you in this video are not only my personal opinions. The knowledge and skills that I am sharing are based on actual experience, history of the genre, and requirements from the artists that I played and toured with. Artists such as...

B.B. King
Bobby "Blue" Bland
Albert King
Albert Collins
Etta James
Buddy Guy
Koko Taylor
Ike Turner
Otis Clay
Charlie Musselwhite
Matt "Guitar" Murphy
Luther Tucker
Johnnie Taylor
Katie Webster
Lucky Peterson
Kenny Neal
Little Joe Blue
Frankie Lee
Otis Grand
Z.Z. Hill
Willie Clayton
James Cotton
O.V. Wright
Junior Wells

And here are some of the other artists that I've played and/or recorded with...

James Brown
Willie Nelson
Carlos Santana
Ray Charles
Dierks Bentley
Ron Wood
Robert Cray
The Neville Brothers
Lonnie Brooks
Slash
Susan Tedeschi
The Allman Brothers
Derek Trucks
Warren Haynes

Waylon Jennings
Billy Gibbons
Kenny Wayne Shepherd
Kris Kristofferson
George Duke
George Benson
Lowell Fulson
John Lee Hooker
John McLaughlin
Ruth Brown
Irma Thomas
Joe Louis Walker
Stevie Ray Vaughan
Jimmie Vaughan

Kim Wilson
Wayne Bennett
Mel Brown
Pappo
Davey Davies
Lee Ritenour
Mick Hucknall
Anson Funderburgh
Johnny Copeland
Shemekia Copeland
Rufus Thomas
Kevin Brown
And many, many more

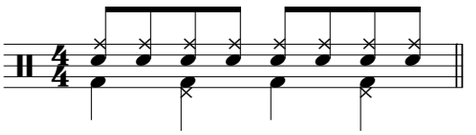
It is my sincere hope that you enjoy this video and book and use these principles and exercises to correctly play this often misunderstood and overlooked skill of the authentic blues shuffle.

– Tony Coleman

BASIC SHUFFLE

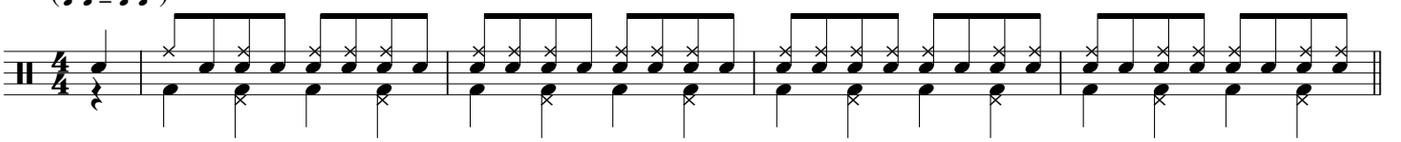
Basic Shuffle 0:04

(♫ = ♩³♪)



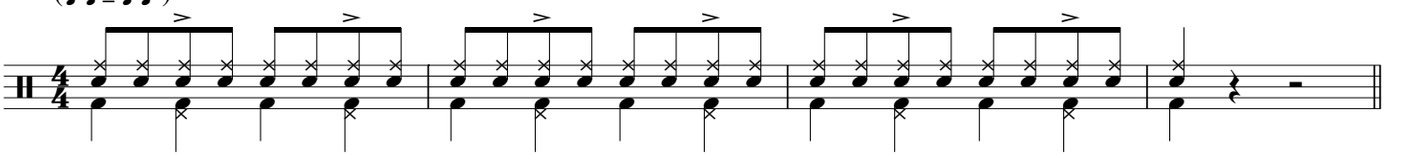
Basic Shuffle variation 1 2:45

(♫ = ♩³♪)



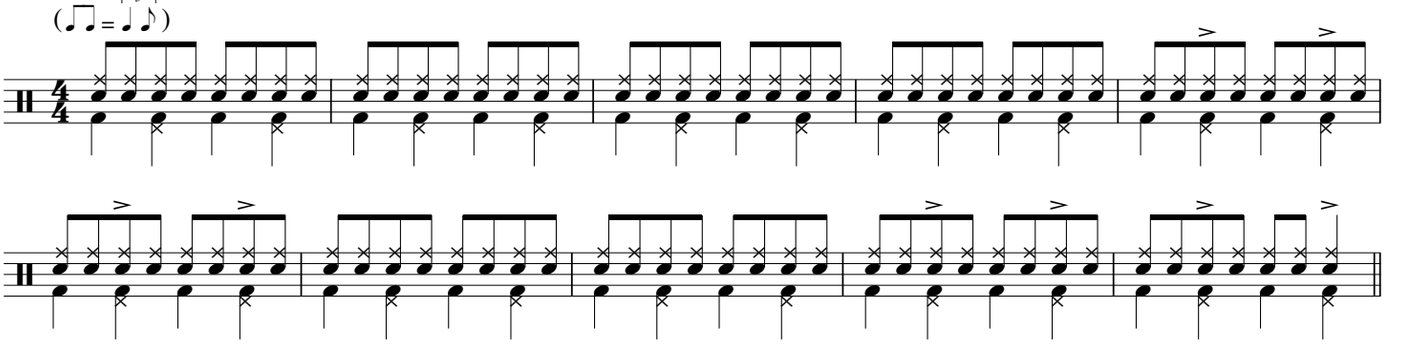
Basic Shuffle variation 2 3:40

(♫ = ♩³♪)



Basic Shuffle variation 3 4:06

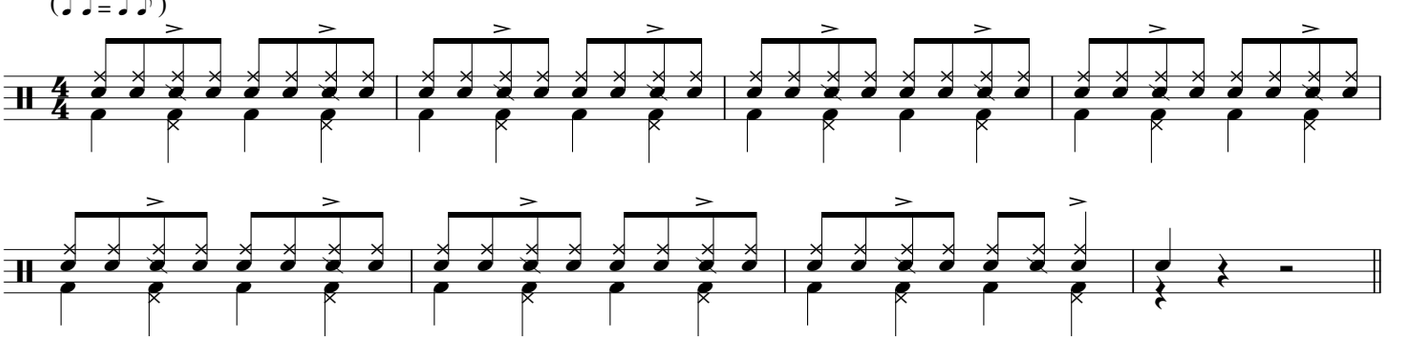
(♫ = ♩³♪)



Basic Shuffle variation 4 5:27

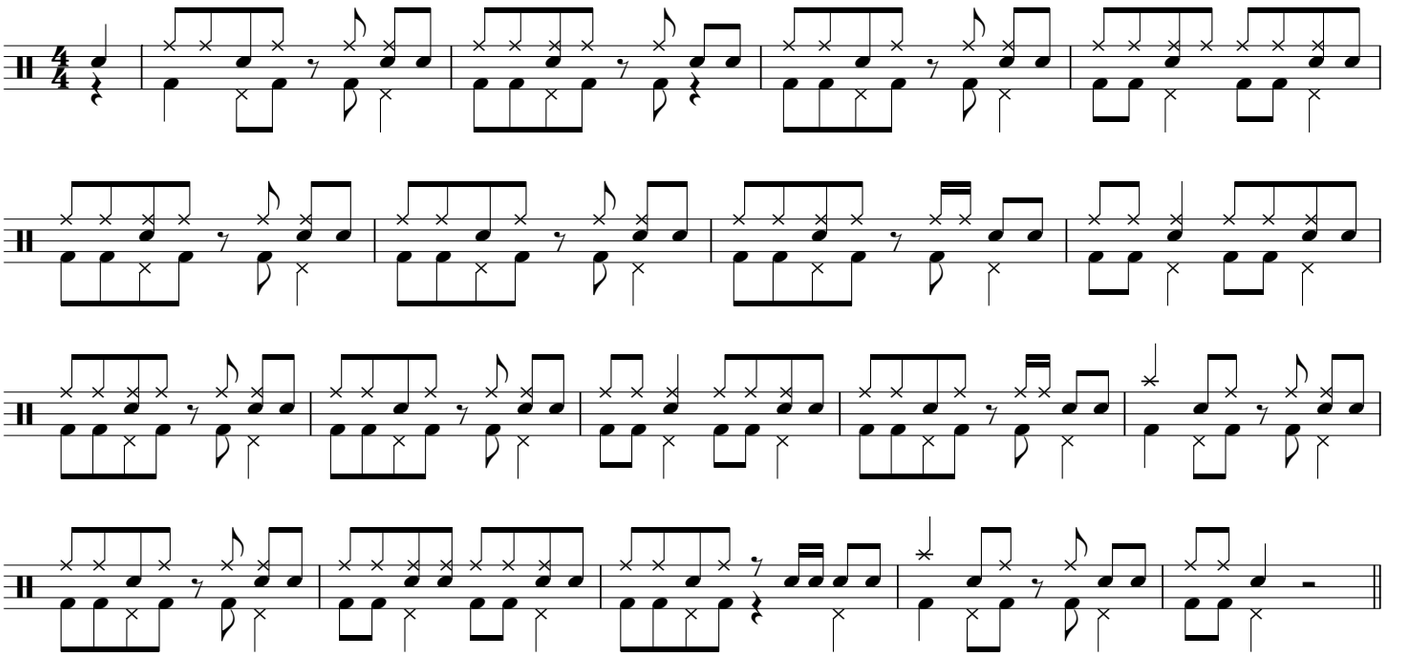
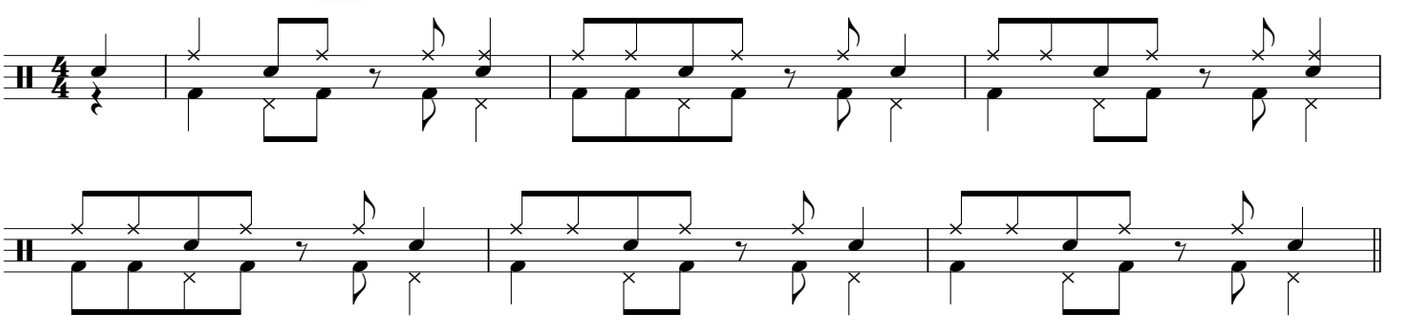
(rimshot snare on 2 & 4)

(♫ = ♩³♪)



GOSPEL SHUFFLE

Gospel Shuffle 0:53



Gospel Shuffle variation 1:22