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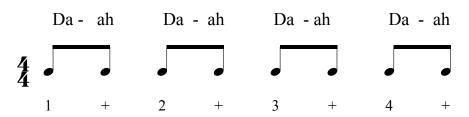
A SWINGING DRUMMER:

One who creates a swinging, propulsive beat with a soulful, rhythmic feel, contagious to musicians and audiences alike. Gregory Caputo

Let us begin with the voice.

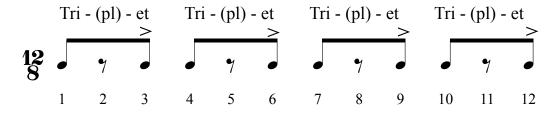
Set your metronome at 66 b.p.m. This equals the quarter note.

For one 4/4 measure vocalize:



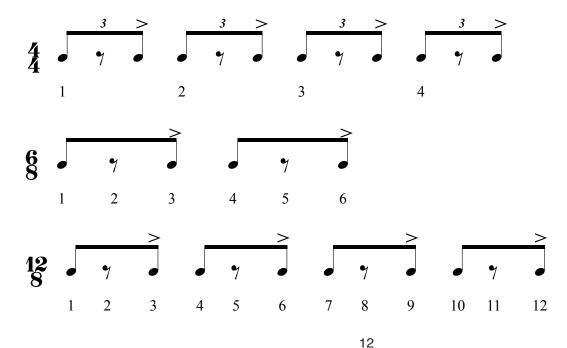
This is a non-swinging 8th note feel.

Now in 12/8 vocalize this - triplets, leaving out the middle syllable:



This is a swing feel, and accenting the last note of the triplet ("-let") will propel the beat, giving it a flowing, dynamic energy.

Note: The examples in this text are written in 4/4, 6/8 and 12/8 in order to familiarize you with time signatures of swing.



The foundations of the swing pulse originated in West Africa with influences of the Cuban culture.

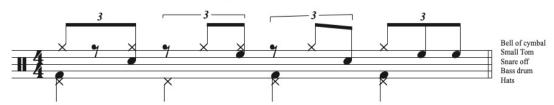
Here is the basic African Naningo swing rhythm.



African Naningo for drum set - 12/8

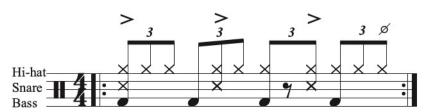


Transposed to 4/4 for drum set



The Bikutsi: From Cameroon, West Africa





Anatomy of a Swing Feel:

#1 Set your metronome at 80 b.p.m. This will be the dotted quarter note.

At each click vocalize this: TRI-PL-ET, or HAM-BUR-GER. Other scat suggestions would be da-ba-da, dee-ba-da, or did-dl-a.

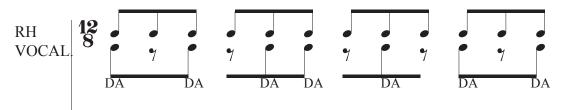
Vocalize and listen for 16 clicks to get the time pulse and "feel" into your soul.

16 clicks equals 4 bars in 12/8 time. If you can feel 4 bars, you will be able to feel 8.

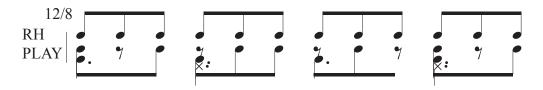
This times two equals 16, times two equals a 32 bar chorus.

Being able to "feel" a chorus frees you to express your solo improvisations more easily.

- #2 Next with your right hand playing the click (the dotted quarter note) at 80 b.p.m., vocalize this: TRI-PL-ET and accent the up-beat of the "ET" with your voice. This enhances the swing feel and will help infuse the triplet feel into your time pulse.
- #3 Play a triplet for every click at 80 b.p.m. with your right hand and vocalize the Afro-Cuban rhythm swing feel as indicated below.



#4 Play the triplet for every click at 80 b.p.m. with your right hand, and play the Afro-Cuban rhythm with your left



With this 12/8 TRI-PL-ET feel, the Classic Swing Rhythm inevitably SWINGS. Vocalize triplets with "da-ba-da" or "dee-ba-da" or "did-dl-a"

