

# How to Build a Drum Groove

VOLUME ONE

Mastering Quarter & Eighth Note Grooves



**RICK STOJAK'S**  
  
**DRUM STUDIO SERIES**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	<i>i</i>
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS .....	<i>ii</i>
ABOUT THE AUTHOR .....	<i>iii</i>
INTRODUCTION .....	<i>iv</i>
DRUM SET.....	<i>v</i>
DRUM SET NOTATION GUIDE .....	<i>vi</i>
SNARE DRUM VARIATIONS WITH 8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTES ON THE HI-HAT .....	1
BASS DRUM VARIATIONS WITH 8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTES ON THE HI-HAT .....	3
8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTE BEAT VARIATIONS PLAYLIST .....	4
8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTE BEAT VARIATIONS .....	10
HI-HAT PATTERNS ON THE FOOT.....	20
TWO-BAR 8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTE PLAY ALONGS .....	21
TWO-BAR 8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTE BEATS .....	25
USING TOMS IN AN 8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTE BEAT .....	26
QUARTER NOTE HI-HAT EXERCISES.....	27
QUARTER NOTE HI-HAT BEATS PLAYLIST .....	29
QUARTER NOTE HI-HAT BEATS.....	30
HI-HAT UPBEATS PLAYLIST.....	31
HI-HAT ON THE UPBEATS.....	32
KICK CONTROL .....	33
BASIC CYMBAL VARIATIONS .....	34
BEATS FOR BASIC CYMBAL VARIATIONS.....	37
TWO-BAR CYMBAL VARIATIONS .....	38
QUARTER & EIGHTH NOTE FUNKY ROCK .....	42
SWING PATTERNS – SNARE ON 3 .....	43
SWING PATTERNS – SNARE ON 4 .....	44
SWING PATTERNS – SNARE ON 2 AND 4 .....	45
SWING PATTERNS – JAZZ COMPING.....	46
SWING PATTERNS – 4 QUARTERS ON THE KICK .....	47
SWING PATTERNS – REGGAE FEEL - ONE DROPS.....	48
SWING PATTERNS – 4-BAR PHRASES .....	49

OPEN & CLOSED HI-HAT WALK.....	51
OPEN & CLOSED HI-HATS .....	53
TWO-BAR 8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTE BEATS WITH OPEN & CLOSED HI-HATS .....	56
8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTE ACCENT INDEPENDENCE BEATS .....	59
HI-HAT TOP/EDGE VARIATIONS.....	61
LINEAR 8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTE BEATS .....	62
BEATS WITH DROPS .....	63
UNISON 8 <sup>TH</sup> NOTE ACCENT INDEPENDENCE .....	66
BROKEN-UP HI-HAT PATTERNS .....	69
GROOVE SHIFT .....	71
BEATS IN 3/4 TIME .....	72
BEATS IN 5/4 TIME .....	73
BEATS IN 7/4 TIME.....	74
BEATS IN 5/8 TIME .....	75
BEATS IN 7/8 TIME .....	76
COMPLETE YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – EIGHTH NOTES .....	77
COMPLETE YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – QUARTER NOTES .....	80
COMPLETE YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – UPBEATS / ANDS.....	82
COMPLETE YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – SWING FEEL .....	84
BUILD YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – ONE-BAR EIGHTH NOTES WITH REPEATS .....	85
BUILD YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – EIGHTH NOTES.....	86
BUILD YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – QUARTER NOTES .....	87
BUILD YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – UPBEATS / ANDS .....	88
BUILD YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – SWING FEEL .....	89
BUILD YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – 3/4, 5/4 & 7/4 TIME .....	90
BUILD YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – 5/8 TIME.....	91
BUILD YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – 7/8 TIME.....	92
BUILD YOUR OWN DRUM GROOVE – BLANK MANUSCRIPT .....	93
HOW TO BUILD A DRUM GROOVE – RESOURCE GUIDE .....	95
HELPFUL IPHONE, IPAD & ANDROID APPS.....	101
NOTES .....	103
RICK STOJAK’S DRUM STUDIO & LESSONS.....	<i>INSIDE BACK COVER</i>

## About the Author



Rick Stojak is a professional touring drummer, studio musician, teacher, author and clinician whose success is fueled by a refreshing musical diversity and intensity. Rick is accomplished at reading drum charts and is known as a pocket player who grooves in any style with or without a click track.

Rick is an avid drum collector known for performing on a wide variety of spectacular drum set and percussion set-ups that include acoustic drums, African drums, and multi-percussion. He is also an electronic drum specialist. Rick is a first-call drummer among top DJs in Southern California, and he can be seen playing clear acrylic drums that light up, change color, and strobe.

Rick proudly endorses Sabian Cymbals, Aquarian Drumheads, Vic Firth Company, and SkyGel Damper Pads.

Rick started drumming professionally at the age of 16 playing the legendary CBGB in New York City with the punk band, The Names. He then began touring the East Coast and recording with B. Wilde for Polygon Productions.

In the mid-nineties, Rick joined Barnyard Ballers. The San Diego band was instrumental in developing a new style called psychobilly by mixing rockabilly with punk, metal, and country. The band is a psychobilly favorite who tours internationally and frequently plays sold-out shows on the Hollywood Strip. Barnyard Ballers have enjoyed the success of four full-length album releases. Rick is often hired as a touring drummer for this genre. He has played nationally and internationally with Guana Batz, Klax, Hillbilly Hellcats, and Bamboula.

Rick is accomplished in various styles of music. He has performed with numerous artists including piano virtuoso Giovanni Marradi, world-class jazz vocalist Ariana Savalas and Latin Grammy Award nominee Gustavo Alarco.

Rick has frequently performed at Legoland and the San Diego Zoo playing a unique mobile percussion cart. Rick has also performed with the bands Island Fever and Blu Gruv, playing an ethnic-percussion drum set in the styles of Reggae, Calypso, Worldbeat, and Latin.

Rick Stojak's Drum Studio is a place where drummers of every level grow musically, professionally, and personally by studying privately or in group workshops. Rick hosts some of the greatest drummers, including Daniel Glass of Royal Crown Review and funk drumming legend Zoro The Drummer, for drum clinics and master classes. Rick has written a highly acclaimed drum method series called "How to Build a Drum Groove" which pairs drum beats with hit songs.

Rick is a featured member of the Sabian Education Network, an international group dedicated to the highest level of drumming education. Rick has been recognized by Roy Burns of Aquarian for achievement in drumming education and performance. He has also attended several private drum teacher seminars hosted by Vic Firth Company. Rick has had the honor to be selected as a judge for the yearly Guitar Center Drum Off.

Rick has studied with some of the greatest drummers in the world including Zoro, Daniel Glass, and metal legend, Gene Hoglan. Rick has also attended dozens of drum clinics and drum workshops.

Rick has shared his professional knowledge of drumming as a successful educator and performer on several online platforms for drummers including "Drum Education Live" out of London and an interview by SABIAN President and CEO Andy Zildjian for "Drummer's High". Rick has been interviewed on and co-hosted the acclaimed drum talk radio show "Around the Kit" with host Joe Gansas.

Rick is a co-founder of the Drummers Education Connection (D.E.C.) alongside world-renown drumming educators Bart Robley, Chip Ritter, and Jeremy Steinkoler. The D.E.C. hosts a weekly video Podcast on Facebook and YouTube featuring roundtable discussions on a vast range of topics related to drumming and teaching, as well as hosting notable drummers, educators, and industry experts. Since 2020 the goal of D.E.C. is to offer insight, inspiration, and performances for all drummers. [www.drummersedcon.com](http://www.drummersedcon.com)

# Introduction

My goal with *How to Build a Drum Groove* is to help drummers develop the dexterity, coordination, control, dynamics and timing required to play the drum set in any style.

This book series was developed for students of every level at Rick Stojak's Drum Studio in San Diego, California. I found that my students needed a system of learning that is musical and could be immediately applied to actual, popular songs.

*How to Build a Drum Groove* is a four-part drum method book series that pairs evolving drum beats with steady pocket hit songs. *Volume One* contains the basic quarter and eighth note combinations. *Volume Two* teaches drummers to develop more involved, syncopated sixteenth-note combinations. *Volume Three* explores how to play fills for all styles of popular music. *Volume Four* explores various triplet-based grooves for Blues, Rock, Jazz and beyond.

Be creative and experiment with all of these books. Repeat each measure by connecting the end to the beginning, playing it as a loop. Practice with a click track (metronome) at all tempos especially slow tempos. Make sure to stop playing before you change the tempo. Continue playing each beat over and over until you are steady, confident and relaxed. Next, mix the beats into two and four bar phrases. After that, try switching from the hi-hats to the ride cymbal or for a worldbeat or punk feel switch to the floor tom. Experiment using different hi-hat variations with the foot.

Pay close attention to your dynamics meaning the overall volume ratio between the kick, snare and cymbals. Achieving a balanced blend will help create a great feeling groove. Practice playing the beats at soft, medium and loud volumes and everything in between. Stick height is the key to achieving dynamics. A note played close to the drum will come out soft. A note played far from the drum will come out loud. Play your accents pronounced and strong and ghost notes as soft as possible. Find the right blend of volumes that make the beat sound smooth but confident. Experimenting with dynamics will completely change the character of the groove. Remember to serve the music by playing what works best for the song. Once you are comfortable playing the beats, feel free to start improvising by adding fills, accents and your own variations. Try playing all patterns as written or with varying degrees of a swing feel ♪-♪ ♪ , ♪-♪ ♪ . Envision yourself playing a big gig where you are laying down a solid groove and everyone is dancing. Doing all of these variations will help you to develop your own unique style and sound.

The playlists have been created to give you a reference as to how the beats will sound within a song. Not all of the beats are note for note transcriptions, but they all work great to play with the songs. The playlists will occasionally have a note that says "General Groove". It means that the beat is slightly improvised in the song. Songs used in the book series can be easily found by subscribing to Rick Stojak's YouTube channel. Hearing a beat in a song may help you to make sense of how it is written out, aiding in the process of learning to read music. Use counting to help you understand the rhythms, however, the goal is to feel the rhythms and make them musical. Playing along to songs will help you to have a better sense of timing and prepare you to play with a band. You will begin to evolve your own sense of groove with this method.

Many of the drum tracks on the playlists were recorded with a click track. Others were programmed on drum machines or created on a software based recording system. You will hear the steady tempo and solid groove. You will also find that some of the songs have looser tempos with subtle fluctuations in the feel. Sometimes this natural organic approach creates an undeniable feel or groove. Notice that the same beat may have a different feel from song to song. Also, listen to how the drum kits were recorded with the varying volumes and tones of the drums and cymbals in relation to each other. Listening for, and applying all these subtleties will help you grow as a musician.

Most of all—have FUN!

I highly recommend working through this series with a drum teacher.

Enjoy life, play drums!

Rick Stojak

# Snare Drum Variations

with 8th Notes on the Hi-Hat

*Play Slowly*

1) *Count* 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 2)

3) 4)

5) 6)

7) 8)

9) 10)

11) 12)

13) 14)

15) 16)

# Snare Drum Variations

with 8th Notes on the Hi-Hat

17) 18)

19) 20)

21) 22)

23) 24)

25) 26)

27) 28)

29) 30)

31) 32)

# Bass Drum Variations with 8th Notes on the Hi-Hat

*Play Slowly*

Count

1) 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 2)

3) 4)

"Four on the Floor"

5) 6)

7) 8)

9) 10)

11) 12)

13) 14)

15) 16)



# 8<sup>th</sup> Note Beat Variations Playlist



*This playlist corresponds to the "8<sup>th</sup> Note Beat Variations" found on pages 10-19.*

Beat #	Song Title	Artist	Notes	BPM
1	Last Night On Earth	Green Day		60
	Yellow Ledbetter	Pearl Jam		70
	I'll Be Waiting	Lenny Kravitz		73
	The Stroke	Billy Squire		91
	Tempted	Squeeze		96
	Take Me to the River	Talking Heads		99
	Pop Life	Prince		101
	A Face in the Crowd	Tom Petty		106
	Hang On to Your Love	Sade		108
	My City Was Gone	Pretenders		108
	Need You Now	Lady Antebellum		108
	Bright Lights Bigger City	Cee Lo Green		109
	Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da	The Beatles		113
	I Won't Back Down	Tom Petty		114
	Handle With Care	The Traveling Wilburys		115
	Hella Good	No Doubt	Open HH "+" of 4 every other bar	115
	New Sensation	INXS		116
	Billie Jean	Michael Jackson		117
	Fresh	Kool & the Gang		117
	Learning to Fly	Tom Petty		117
	1999	Prince		118
	Beds Are Burning	Midnight Oil		119
	Manic Monday	The Bangles		122
	China Girl	David Bowie		134
	It's a Long Way to the Top	AC/DC		136
	She Sells Sanctuary	The Cult		139
	You Wreck Me	Tom Petty		164
	Rebel Yell	Billy Idol		167
	Dancing With Myself	Billy Idol		176
	I'm on Fire	Bruce Springsteen	Cross-Stick	178
2	Everlasting Light	The Black Keys	Accent Hi-Hat "+s"	90
	Things Are Changin'	Gary Clark Jr.		91
	It Wasn't Me	Shaggy	Explicit Lyrics	95
3	I AM	AWOLNATION		65
	Let Love Rule	Lenny Kravitz	Verse	76
	Watching the Wheels	John Lennon		83
	Boulevard of Broken Dreams	Green Day	Verse/Explicit Lyrics	84
	Clint Eastwood	Gorillaz	Accent HH "+s"/Explicit Lyrics	84
	(Sittin' On) The Dock of the Bay	Otis Redding		103
	In the Evening	Led Zeppelin	Recommended Listening	104
	Like a Stone	Audioslave	Accent Hi-Hats on "+" of 4	107
	This is the Place	Red Hot Chili Peppers	General Groove/Explicit Lyrics	113

<b>3</b>	Urgent	Foreigner		115
	Blitzkrieg Bop	Ramones		176
	Ring of Fire	Social Distortion		180
<b>4</b>	You Don't Know How It Feels	Tom Petty	Accent HH on "+" of 2, "+" of 4	72
	I Lay Down	Zucchero	Basic Groove	74
	Coming Undone	Korn	Embellish Snare	75
	We Will Rock You	Queen	Omit Hi-Hats, Flams on Snare	81
	Where Is My Mind?	Pixies	Omit Hi-Hats, Flams on Snare	82
	Angel	Shaggy		85
	Beverly Hills	Weezer		88
	Guatanamera	Wyclef Jean	Explicit Lyrics	88
	No Sleep Till Brooklyn	Beastie Boys	General Groove	97
	Who Am I (What's My Name)?	Snoop Dogg	Explicit Lyrics	97
	Mean Mr. Mustard	The Beatles	Open HH on "+" of 2, "+" of 4	100
	Your Woman	White Town		103
	Good Times Roll	The Cars		108
	Whatsername	Green Day	Open HH "+" of 4 every other bar	120
	Wild, Wild Life	Talking Heads		136
	Day Tripper	The Beatles	Verse	138
<b>5</b>	Europa	Santana	Cross-Stick	75
	American Woman	Lenny Kravitz		84
	Eminence Front	The Who		98
	What's Love Got to do With It	Tina Turner		98
	Baby Your Baby	George Strait		106
	If I Fell	The Beatles	Cross-Stick	108
	Against the Wind	Bob Seger		109
	Jeopardy	Greg Kihn Band	Open Hi-Hats on "+" of 4	110
	Tequila Sunrise	Eagles	Cross-Stick	110
	Someday	Sugar Ray		111
	Stay Up Late	Talking Heads		111
	Wicked Game	Chris Isaak	Brush on Snare	112
	I Just Called to Say I Love You	Stevie Wonder		114
	Every Breath You Take	The Police		117
	Joey	Concrete Blonde		119
	Girls Just Want to Have Fun	Cyndi Lauper	Omit Hi-Hats	120
	Up On the Roof	The Drifters		122
	Margaritaville	Jimmy Buffett	Cross-Stick	125
	Abracadabra	Steve Miller Band		127
	The Other Side	Aerosmith		127
	Lies	Thompson Twins		132
	Take it Easy	Eagles		136
	Peaceful, Easy Feeling	Eagles	Cross-Stick	143
It's Not Unusual	Tom Jones		184	
<b>6</b>	Hotel California	Eagles	Embellish Hi-Hats	74
	Highway to Hell	AC/DC	Verse	115
	Peter Gunn Theme	The Blues Brothers		121

<b>7</b>	Don't Dream It's Over	Crowded House	Cross-Stick	81
	Business	Eminem	Explicit Lyrics	96
	Waiting For a Girl	Foreigner		102
	Angry	The Rolling Stones	Open HH "+" of 3 every other bar	113
	Deacon Blues	Steely Dan		115
	I Hate Myself for Loving You	Joan Jett		118
	So Alive	Love and Rockets		119
	Red Skies	The Fixx		120
	Walkin' On the Sun	Smash Mouth		123
	A Girl Like You	Edwyn Collin	Omit Hi-Hats	126
	Jamie's Cryin'	Van Halen		127
	Talking In Your Sleep	The Romantics		130
	Super Freak	Rick James		132
	U Can't Touch This	MC Hammer	Stop on "3" every other bar	133
Jumpin' Jack Flash	The Rolling Stones		137	
<b>10</b>	I Believe I Can Fly	R. Kelly		60
	Free Fallin'	Tom Petty		84
	Fields of Gold	Sting	Cross-Stick	104
	Yeah!	Usher	Open Hi-Hats on "+" of 4	105
	Hump de Bump	Red Hot Chili Peppers	General Groove	112
	Don't Do Me Like That	Tom Petty		116
<b>11</b>	Heathens	Twenty One Pilots	Played Linear-See Pg 62, Beat 8	90
	From Tha Chuuch To Da Palace	Snoop Dogg	Explicit Lyrics	97
	Supersoulfighter	Lenny Kravitz		111
	You Shook Me All Night Long	AC/DC		127
	Feel Good Inc	Gorillaz		139
<b>12</b>	You Got Lucky	Tom Petty	Open Hi-Hats on "3"	115
	Synchronicity II	The Police	General Groove	158
<b>13</b>	Tomorrow People	Ziggy Marley		96
	She Blinded Me With Science	Thomas Dolby	General Groove	128
	Feel It Still	Portugal. The Man		158
<b>14</b>	Sweet Emotion	Aerosmith	Open Hi-Hats on "+" of 4	99
	Honky Tonk Women	The Rolling Stones	Verse	116
	Funky Cold Medina	Tone Loc		118
<b>15</b>	Crusin'	Smokey Robinson	Cross-Stick	84
	So Cruel	U2	General Groove	92
	Stay (Faraway, so close!)	U2		94
	Second Chance	Shinedown		100
	Low	Lenny Kravitz		106
	Papa's Got a Brand New Bag	James Brown		130
	Just Another Day	Oingo Boingo	Open Hi-Hats "+" of 1 and 3	134
<b>16</b>	Standing Outside	Primitive Radio Gods		95
	Short Skirt/Long Jacket	Cake	Embellish Hi-Hats	120
	Right Down the Line	Gerry Rafferty		128
<b>17</b>	Walking The Dog	Rufus Thomas		122
	Shakin' All Over	Johnny Kidd		125