

The UnReel Drum Book

By Marc Atkinson

Transcriptions and
Exercises From the
Randy Waldman
Recording *UnReel*

Drums Performed
by Vinnie Colaiuta



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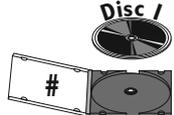
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Foreword

By Dan Bodanis 

With this drum book you now hold in your hands, Marc Atkinson has discovered a great way to share the hidden secrets of drumset master Vinnie Colaiuta. If any person deserved the title of best drummer, in almost any category, it would be Vinnie. From playing with Frank Zappa and Sting, to recording every track on the *UnReel* CD on the first take, Vinnie is the undisputed heavy-weight champion of the drumset!

Marc is a very dedicated student of polyrhythms, metric modulation, phrasing over the bar line, and, of course, Vinnie's drumming. As a matter of fact, he has accurately transcribed more than 350 tracks of Vinnie's drumming. I have had the pleasure of witnessing first-hand how Marc takes these concepts, reinvents them, and then applies them musically. The great thing about Marc's accomplishments with his playing, teaching, this book, and all of his previous work is his ability to communicate very complex ideas in relatively simple terms.

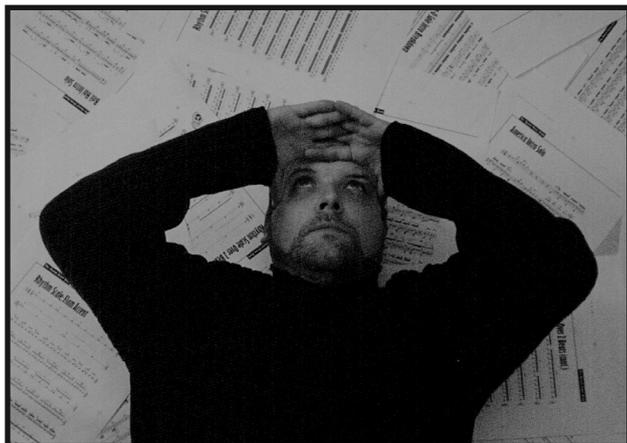
Don't get me wrong, this book will not be easy to master. No doubt you will spend huge amounts of time working on each transcription, but that is not the end, it is just the beginning. I encourage you to take this book and make it your own. What I mean is this: Upon mastering each transcription, go back over the material and change it. Think through and apply different sticking patterns, tom-voicing, and foot patterns. If a fill that sounds really cool starts on the first beat of the bar and ends on the first beat of the next bar, experiment with displacing or moving the fill over by half a beat. In other words, start the fill on the "and" of beat 1 and end on the "and" of beat 1 of the next bar. Use dynamics. One of the best ways to evoke an emotional response in a listener is to exaggerate dynamics.

Don't be satisfied just "playing through" this book. If you are sincerely interested in developing your drumming to your highest potential, while mastering the concepts that Marc shares, push yourself to think beyond the limits of this material! It is then and only then that you will begin to truly develop your own unique voice as a drumset artist.

I wish you success beyond that which you wish upon yourself!

Dan Bodanis

About This Book



This book can be broken down into four sections. The first section is a warm-up and technique section that includes the single stroke, double stroke, and flam workouts. It is not necessary to understand this section entirely to work with the rest of the book. This section is meant primarily to emphasize and aid in developing the Moeller technique, which is an option when playing the solos up to speed. For further study of this technique, I recommend Dom Famularo's book *It's Your Move* and Jim Chapin's video *Speed, Power,*

Control, Endurance, which give detailed instruction on how to learn the Moeller technique.

The second section is the Rhythm Scale Workouts with different approaches and challenges offered in learning and applying these rhythms. It is extremely important that the student have a full understanding of these scales, as well as facility playing them in some of the ways outlined, before looking at the transcriptions. If you do not understand and cannot play the Rhythm Scale Over One Beat section, I highly recommend learning this before trying to play the solos at the end of the book. They will not only aid you in your quest to understand one of today's greatest drummers but will also add a dimension to your playing and understanding of rhythm, which is becoming more and more prominent in much of the music played today and will be in the future. After becoming well acquainted with this part of the book, the learning curve for the third section, which is the transcriptions themselves, will be drastically reduced.

Complementing the transcriptions are the actual charts used on the *UnReel* session. These not only offer great insight into how Vinnie interpreted the music but can also aid in your study of chart reading. The final section of the book is the breakdowns of each solo. These are included as an aid in actually playing the solos, with stickings, and building block exercises to some of the more complicated rhythms. In some cases they are an extension to the rhythm scale. This section is also very interpretive, and I recommend that where possible you devise your own way of working out the solos with the breakdowns as a guideline. It is my hope to bring you closer to understanding advanced rhythms and phrasing concepts as they are applied by one of the greatest drummers of the twentieth century, Vinnie Colaiuta.



Introduction



The concept of the *UnReel* recording was to bring my favorite musicians together and have them play the the most tricky, fun, and challenging arrangements I could come up with. The goal was to have a great time and feature the virtuosity of these great players. As you will hear, they far exceeded my greatest expectations, as usual!

When Marc Atkinson first approached me and explained that he had transcribed all of Vinnie Colaiuta's drum solos from this recording, I thought he must be either crazy, a genius, or someone with way too much time on his hands.

Vinnie is the master of extremely complex polyrhythms, beat displacement, and all-around unfathomable rhythmic inventiveness. Trying to capture his playing on paper is a frightening thought and close to impossible. Marc has done it with amazing accuracy and great attention to detail.

Even though the solos represented in this book are rhythmically technical and very advanced, Marc has broken down the elements of the material to the most basic level with simple exercises and explanations. He shows you how to take it one step at a time, enabling anyone with basic musical training and the ability to read music to learn and incorporate these techniques into his or her own playing.

Start slow, be patient, have fun, and practice.

A special thanks to Brian Benison (copyist for my charts), Warner Bros. Publications, and Dan Bodanis. Enjoy!

Randy B. Waldman



Spencer questions Vinnie on his interpretation of the nine-note groupings over the 7/8 bar during the recording of the UnReel CD while Randy Waldman looks on.

Favorite Things Solo (cont.)

Musical notation for the drum solo, including measures 28, 32, 37, and 41. The notation features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and includes performance instructions such as "PUSH INTO DRUM" and "4:3".



Vinnie performing at NAMM 2003