

# POPMUSIC DRUMING

a workbook for the professional drum set player

by Chris Bates

# Pop Music Drumming

A Workbook for the Professional Drum Set Player

Chris Bates

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# **Table of Contents**

Audio Samples	iv
Introduction	vi
Tips for Practicing	vii
Using a Metronome	vii
Fills	viii
Nomenclature	vii
Rock	
Rock Drumming	1
Rock Fills	
Rock Transcriptions	4
Alternative	
Alternative Rock Drumming	12
Alternative Rock Fills	14
Alternative Rock Transcriptions	15
Country	
Country Music Drumming	20
Country Fills	25
Country Transcriptions	26
Pop	
- ° <b>P</b>	
Pop Drumming	30
Pop Fills	
Pop Transcriptions	33
Hip-Hop	
Hip-Hop Drumming	41
New Jack Swing Drumming.	
House Drumming	44
Go-Go Drumming	
Hip-Hop Fills	
Hip-Hop Transcriptions	
pp *****************************	

## Soul

Soul Drumming		
Motown Drumming		
Soul in 12/8		
Shuffle Drumming		
R&B in 12/8		
Soul Fills		
Soul Transcriptions		
Funk		
Funk Drumming	64	
Funk Fills		
James Brown Funk Grooves		
Funk Transcriptions		
Conclusion	76	
Glossary	77	
Bibliography	79	
Credits	81	
Acknowledgements	82	
Biography		

## **Audio Samples**

Many of the written examples in the book are accompanied by an audio sample. These are indicated with a track number enclosed within a circle that appears next to the written example. These audio samples can be downloaded at www.amalgampublishing.net/pop-music-drumming, and will give the reader a chance to hear how the example should sound. Listen to the sample while reading the written music, then try to play along, matching it as closely as possible.

Track	Title
1-4	8th note rock patterns
5-8	1
9-12	16th note rock patterns w/ alternating sticking
13-17	
18	Transcription of "Rosanna"
19	Transcription of "Fire Escape"
20	Transcription of "Twist and Shout"
21	Transcription of "Waiting on the World to Change"
22	Transcription of "Rock n' Roll Band"
23	Transcription of "I'll Be There for You"
24	Transcription of "Breathe"
25	Transcription of "Come Together"
26-31	Alternative rock examples
32-40	Alternative rock fills
41	Transcription of "Breaking the Girl"
42	Transcription of "All Mixed Up"
43	Transcription of "Learn to Fly"
44-45	Texas shuffle examples
46-48	Two-beat country swing grooves
49-50	Train beat examples
51-52	Train beat examples w/8th notes
53-54	Train beat examples w/8th note triplets
55-58	Pop country music grooves
59-60	Country grooves in 3/4
61-62	Country grooves in 6/8
63-66	Country fills in 4/4
67-68	Country fills in 3/4
69-70	Country fills in 6/8
71	Transcription of "These Days"
72	Transcription of "Stuck like Glue"
73	Transcription of "Downtown"
74	Transcription of "Wasting All These Tears"
75-78	Dance pop drumming examples
79-82	Dance pop drumming technical examples
83-90	Dance pop fills
91	Transcription of "I Wanna Be Free"

Track	Title
92	Transcription of "Open Your Heart"
93	Transcription of "Paparazzi"
94	Transcription of "Battlefield"
95	Transcription of "Black or White"
96	Transcription of "Show Me Love"
97-100	Hip-hop examples w/8th note hi-hat
101	Hip-hop example w/ 16th note triplets
102-104	Hip-hop complex rhythms
105-107	New jack swing drumming examples
108-109	House drumming examples
110-11	House drumming examples w/ slow tempos
112-115	Go-go drumming examples
116-123	Hip-hop fills
124	Transcription of "Insane in the Brain"
125	Transcription of "Thrift Shop"
126	Transcription of "Humpin' Around"
127	Transcription of "So You Like What You See"
128	Transcription of "C'mon n' Ride It (The Train)"
129	Transcription of "Creep"
130-131	Motown drumming examples
132-135	12/8 drumming examples
136	50s rock n' roll groove
137-143	Shuffle drumming examples
144-147	12/8 drumming with 16th and 32nd notes
148-151	Fills in 12/8
152-155	Shuffle fills
156	Transcription of "Use Me"
157	Transcription of "I Want You Back"
158	Transcription of "You Can't Hurry Love"
159	Transcription of "(Do The) Mashed Potatoes, Pt. 1"
160-163	Quarter note and 8th note funk examples
164-166	Upbeat funk grooves
167-171	Syncopated funk examples
172-173	16th note funk phrasing examples
174-175	32nd note phrasing examples
176-177	16th note funk grooves w/ hi-hat
178-179	16th note funk grooves w/ ride cymbal
180-183	Fast 16th note funk grooves
184-191	Funk fills
192-194	Transcriptions of "Mother Popcorn," "Super Bad," and "Doing It to Death"
195	Transcription of "Musicology"  Transcription of "Discipling Inc. Inc. Provent"
196	Transcription of "Diggin' on James Brown"  Transcription of "Meleo It Freder"
197	Transcription of "Make It Funky"  Transcription of "Itin City Pt. 2"
198	Transcription of "Hip City, Pt. 2"

## Introduction

What is pop music? Pop music is the kind of music that we listen to on a daily basis by the listener's request. If there's a song that people like, they'll want to listen to it as many times as they please. When we want to hear songs on the radio, we request it. When we want to buy a song or songs, we purchase them online. Millions of people have bought and listened to many different genres of music which gave those genres and the music artists critical praise and many awards such as Billboard Music Awards, Grammy Awards, and Video Music Awards. The genres covered in this book include rock, alternative rock, pop, R&B, funk, soul, hip-hop, and country. All of these genres are considered pop music because their music video, radio, and TV airplay gives them international exposure. One of the most important people in pop music is the drummer. The drummer's job is to be the driving force by providing grooves to make the song stand out. Whether a pop song tells a story or just gets people to dance, the drummer is the one who provides the feel to make pop songs popular to music audiences. Musicians today must understand the stylistic qualities of the music they play, no matter what genre. Whether it's rock, funk, R&B, country, or blues, all genres are played in their own way. The drummer plays in order to complement and appreciate the qualities of each genre by providing the rhythms to make the music speak.

The contents of this book are designed to help the drum set player grasp the means of playing grooves for many pop music genres and to prepare them to perform in front of a wide variety of audiences. This book contains a series of grooves and fills for different musical styles. These grooves give the sense of how to play and solo over many styles of music. Both the rhythms and the tempo markings define certain genres. If the player practices the material in this book with a metronome, the player will be more likely to develop a consistent tempo and better understand how the grooves are played.

This book has transcriptions with grooves that have come from popular drummers and the music that they play. It's common for drum set players to enhance their musical ability by playing along to some of their favorite songs. That way, they can handle playing many kinds of music and can understand how their part fits with the parts of other musicians. When the student listens to recordings, he or she can hear the drums in the songs and can incorporate that into his or her own music.

It is the author's sincere hope that this book will be a tool for all drummers, music students, and educators to build a drum set technique and to use these rhythms and all the other content to perform, play, and teach for a large number of different musical groups. Enjoy!

# Tips for Practicing

- 1. Look at the rhythm and study it very carefully. You can also sing the rhythm, or count it out loud or in your mind.
- 2. Learn and perfect the written examples, then develop variations of your own.
- 3. Separate the hands and feet while playing the rhythms, then combine everything.
- 4. Practice each rhythm slowly and gradually increase tempo.
- 5. Always work the rhythm up to the required tempo marking.
- 6. For examples with both open and closed hi-hats, try to play the rhythms with the hi-hats closed. Don't play the open hi-hats if you are not comfortable with playing them yet. When you are comfortable, then you can play the rhythms as written.
- 7. Play the entire rhythm at the required tempo marking and loop it so that you can find and carry the groove.

Some rhythms and fills may be a bit more difficult than others. If you encounter a rhythm that you can't seem to play, refer back to these practice tips. Remember, practicing consistently with patience will bring back positive results.

# Using A Metronome

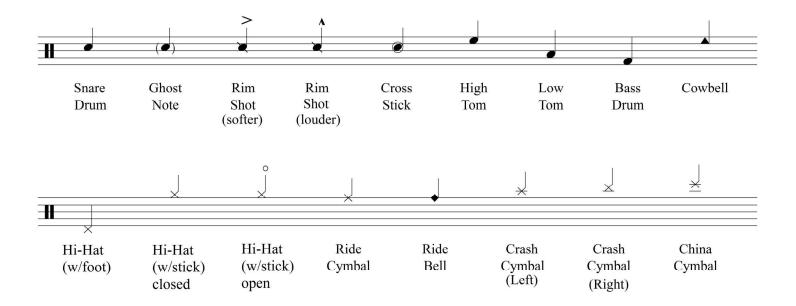
A metronome should be used to keep tempo. This isn't just for drummers, it's for all musicians. An effective way to use it is to practice playing grooves with a metronome while wearing headphones. Practice with a lot of different tempos on your metronome so that you can get a feel for playing in slow, medium, and fast tempos. All music requires a steady beat, whether the rhythms playing over it are straightforward or syncopated. Other drummers refer to the phrase "keep it in the pocket." The drummer is the time keeper and should stay in tempo at all times.

## **Fills**

A fill is a short transition over the drum set before returning to the groove. Fills can be improvised to add color to music and make the song interesting or to prepare you to enter the next phrase of a song or solo.

To learn more about fills and when to play them, watch other drummers. Listen to the way that they play fills and when they play them. You will notice that the quality of the fill is determined in part by finding the right time to execute the fill to decorate the song. Take time to watch and listen to other drummers and learn from what they are doing.

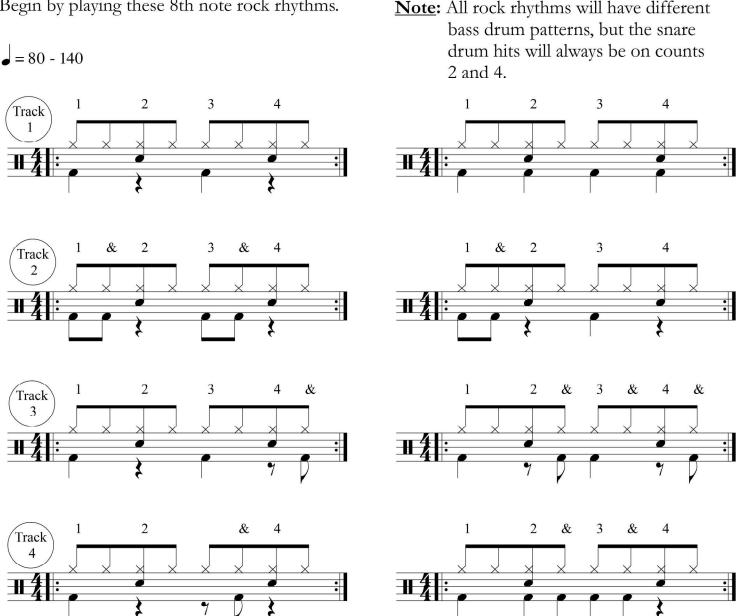
## Nomenclature



# **Rock Drumming**

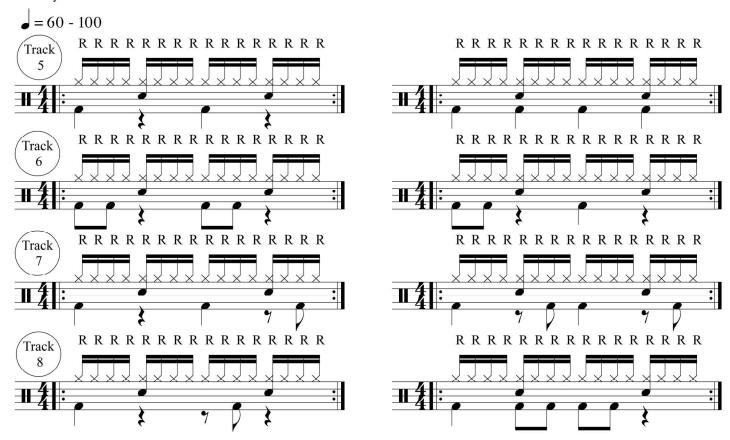
What better way to begin learning pop music grooves than the genre whose grooves are responsible for releasing more hit records than any other genre in music today. Back in the early 1950s, rock n' roll was a driving force for young American youth and a complete nightmare for their parents. Dances and parties were full of energy and feeling based on the music that was played, and these grooves were the backbone of the era. Sixty years since then, rock is still being played and the drummers of rock are keeping the energy going.

Begin by playing these 8th note rock rhythms.

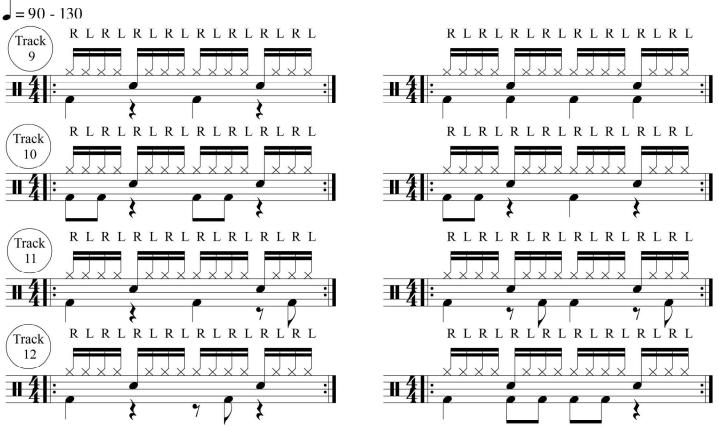


**Note:** You may also attempt to play all these rock grooves on the ride cymbal instead of using the hi-hat.

Now you can take the same grooves and translate them into 16th note patterns. The hi-hat will be played with the right hand. That pattern alone can be used for ballads or songs that require a slow tempo. Try to play these grooves with your hi-hat closed as written. You can also play these with a ride cymbal.

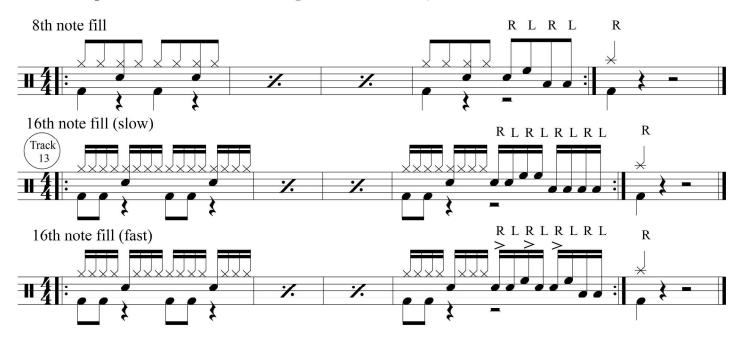


Now do the same rhythms using alternate stickings at faster tempos.

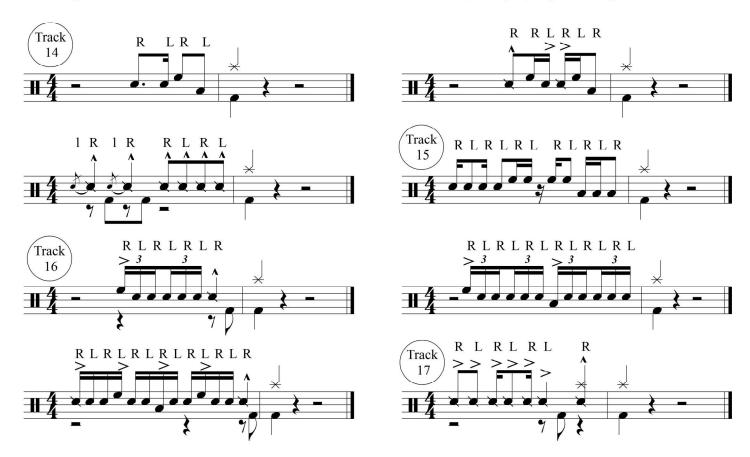


## Rock Fills

These examples will have three bars of groove followed by a fill.



In the examples below, practice each fill at a tempo that is comfortable for you and do not rush or slow down. In the recordings, each fill will have a stick click sound as a metronome to help you keep time. Practice at a tempo that is comfortable for you to play. Increase the tempo whenever you think you can play a little faster. If not, then slow it down and build your playing back up.



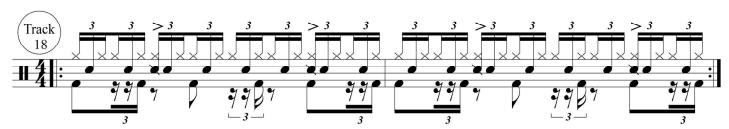
## **Rock Transcriptions**

The following transcriptions are from some of the biggest hit songs of rock music. These songs, and many others, helped popularize rock in some of the most influencial times in music such as the British Invasion of the 60s, Woodstock '69, and the birth of MTV in 1981. Newer generations were influenced by the songs shown here and many other popular songs in the rock music genre.

#### Song: Rosanna

Artist: **Toto** Year of Release: **1982** Album: **IV** Drummer: **Jeff Porcaro** 

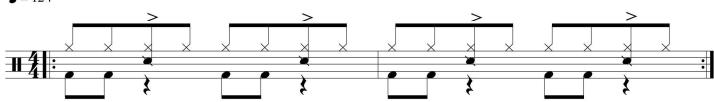




Song: Rhythm of Love

Artist: Yes Year of Release: 1987 Album: Big Generator Drummer: Alan White

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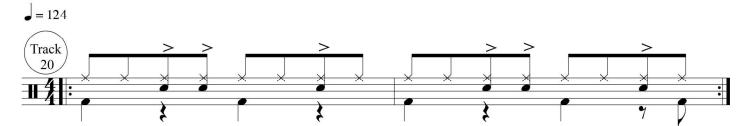


Song: Fire Escape

Artist: Fastball Year of Release: 1998
Album: All the Pain Money Can Buy Drummer: Joe Shuffield

#### Song: Twist and Shout

Artist: **The Beatles** Year of Release: **1963**Album: **Please Please Me** Drummer: **Ringo Starr** 



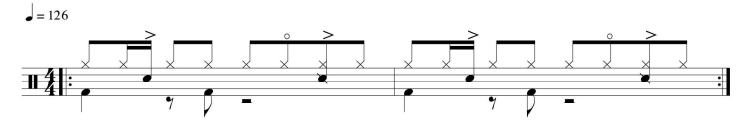
Song: Weight of the World

Artist: Chantal Kreviazuk

Album: What If It All Means Something

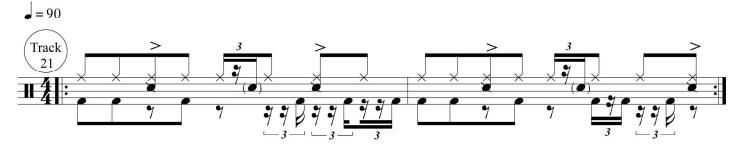
Year of Release: 2002

Drummer: Shawn Pelton



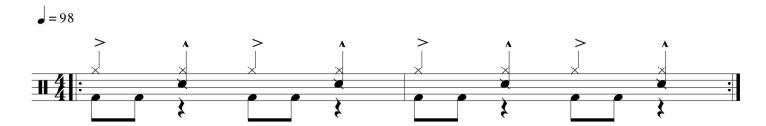
Song: Waiting on the World to Change

Artist: John Mayer Year of Release: 2006 Album: Continuum Drummer: Steve Jordan



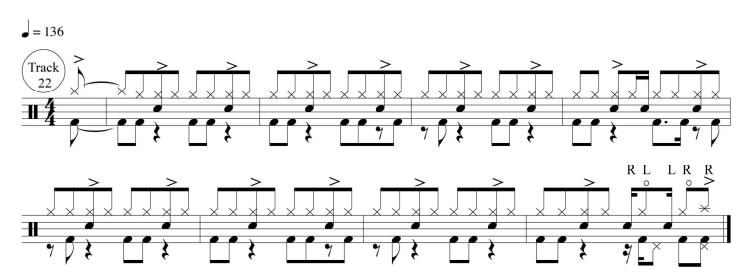
Song: I Love Rock N' Roll

Artist: Joan Jett & The Blackhearts Year of Release: 1981
Album: I Love Rock N' Roll Drummer: Lee Crystal



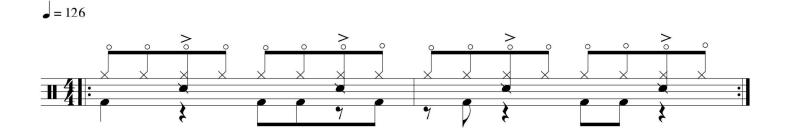
#### Song: Rock N' Roll Band

Artist: **Boston** Year of Release: **1976** Album: **Boston** Drummer: **Jim Masdea** 



#### Song: Hanging by a Moment

Artist: **Lifehouse** Year of Release: **2000** Album: **No Name Face** Drummer: **Jon Palmer** 

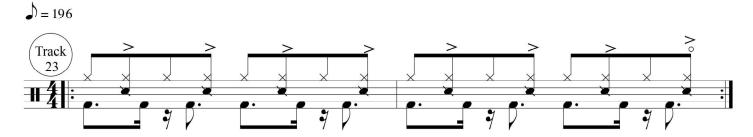


### Song: I'll Be There for You

Artist: The Rembrandts

Year of Release: 1995

Album: Friends (Music from the TV Series) Drummer: Pat Mastelotto

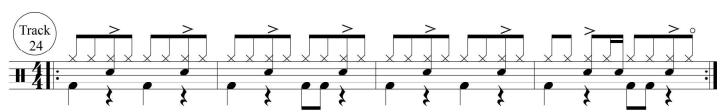


#### Song: Breathe

Artist: Ryan Star Year of Release: 2010

Album: 11:59 Drummer: Matt Chamberlain





Song: Mississippi Queen

Artist: **Mountain** Year of Release: **1970** Album: **Climbing!** Drummer: **Corky Laing** 



Song: I Want to Know

Artist: Living Colour Year of Release: 1988
Album: Vivid Prummer: Will Calhoun



Song: Come Together

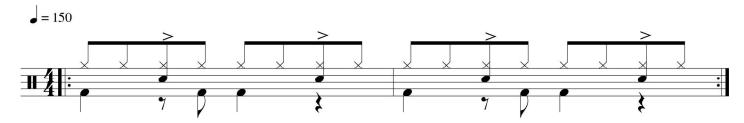
Artist: **The Beatles** Year of Release: **1969** Album: 1 Drummer: **Ringo Starr** 



#### Song: Wagon Wheel Watusi

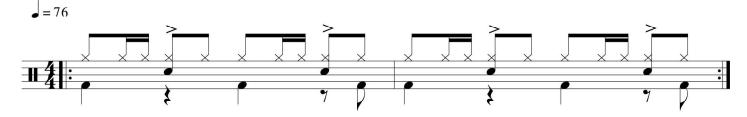
Artist: Elmer Bernstein Year of Release: 2010

Album: Music from the Motion Picture: Baby the Rain Must Fall Drummer: Unknown



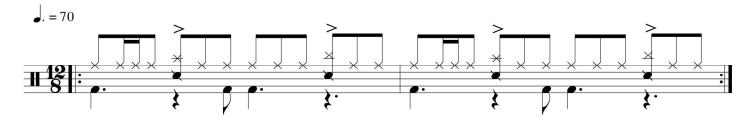
Song: Hotel California

Artist: **The Eagles** Year of Release: **1976**Album: **Hotel California** Drummer: **Don Henley** 



Song: Cryin'

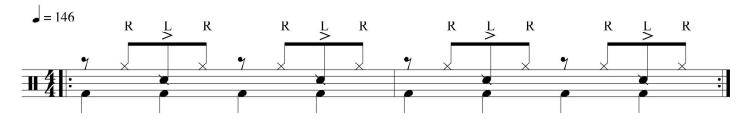
Artist: **Aerosmith** Year of Release: **1993**Album: **Get a Grip** Drummer: **Joey Kramer** 



Song: Bang the Drum All Day

Artist: Todd Rundgren Year of Release: 1982

Album: The Ever Popular Tortured Artist Effect Drummer: Todd Rundgren



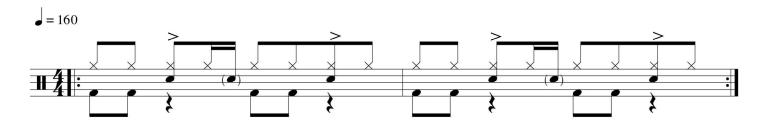
#### Song: Devil with the Blue Dress / Good Golly Miss Molly

Artist: Mitch Ryder & The Detroit Wheels

Album: Breakout...!!!

Year of Release: 1966

Drummer: Johnny Badanjek



Song: Alone

Artist: **Heart** 

Year of Release: 1987

Album: Bad Animals

Drummer: Denny Carmassi



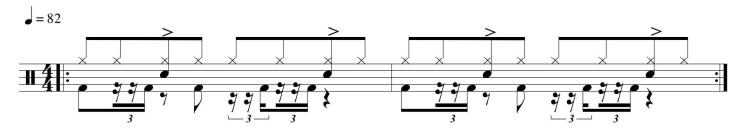
Song: Why Can't I?

Artist: Liz Phair

Year of Release: 2003

Album: Liz Phair

Drummer: Victor Indrizzo



Song: Tiny Dancer

Artist: Elton John

Year of Release: 1971

Album: Madman Across the Water

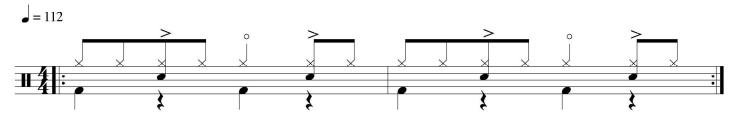
Drummer: Nigel Olsson



#### Song: Addicted to Love

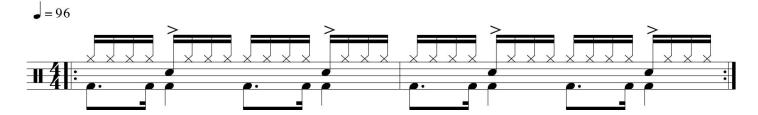
Artist: Robert Palmer Year of Release: 1985

Album: **Riptide** Drummer: **Tony Thompson** 



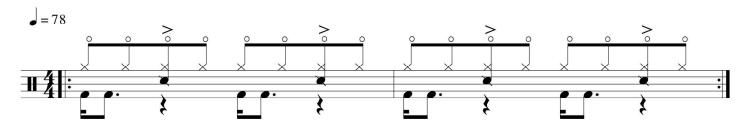
Song: Africa

Artist: **Toto** Year of Release: **1982** Album: **IV** Drummer: **Jeff Porcaro** 



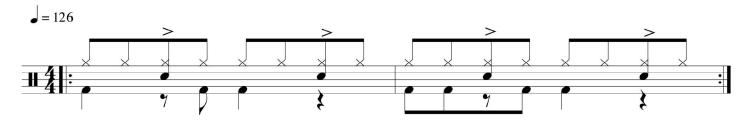
Song: Meant to Live

Artist: Switchfoot Year of Release: 2003
Album: The Beautiful Letdown Drummer: Chad Butler



Song: American Dream

Artist: Vixen Year of Release: 1988
Album: Vixen Drummer: Roxy Petrucci



There are other types of rock grooves and fills that can be covered in many different method books aside from what you have already seen. However, if you take the time to learn all the things in the "Rock Grooves" section, you'll gain an appreciation for the genre and you will also have the ability to play in the appropriate style.

Rock will forever be known as a pivotal genre in our pop culture that will span generations. So go listen to your favorite rock songs and listen to how the drummers play the style, how they stay in sync with the other musicians, and how their part fits into the song.

#### Check out the music of these rock artists listed here:

John Cougar Mellencamp Bon Jovi Metallica Alice Cooper

Judas Priest Dave Matthews Band

311 The Beatles Local H Foghat

Gin Blossoms

Pantera

Whitesnake

Chicago

Elvis Presley

Huey Lewis & The News

Lynyrd Skynyrd

Whitesnake

Joan Jett

Maroon 5

The Killers

Simple Minds Ozzy Osbourne

David Bowie Billy Idol
The Police Lenny Kravitz
Aerosmith Foo Fighters

Jimi Hendrix Boston
Daughtry Led Zepplin

Santana Kiss

# Also take the time to look into some rock drummers. Here are the names of several drummers in popular rock bands.

Steven Adler (Guns N' Roses) Steve Jordan (John Mayer, Bruno Mars)

Will Calhoun (Living Colour)

Joey Kramer (Aerosmith)

Matt Cameron (Pearl Jam, Soundgarden)

Denny Carmassi (Heart)

Log Panozzo (Styx)

Aaron Comess (Spin Doctors)

Stewart Copland (The Police)

Jeff Porcaro (Toto)
Phil Rudd (AC/DC)

Peter Criss (Kiss) Danny Seraphine (Chicago)

Sheila E. (Ringo Starr, Prince) Chad Smith (Red Hot Chilli Peppers)
Dennis Elliott (Foreigner) Steve Smith (Journey, Mariah Carey)

Bill Gibson (Huey Lewis & The News)

Ringo Starr (The Beatles)

Alan Gratzer (REO Speedwagon) Roger Taylor (Queen)

Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters)

Dave Grohl (Nirvana) Chester Thompson (Phil Collins)
Alex Van Halen (Van Halen) Charlie Watts (The Rolling Stones)

Alan White (Yes)