

andy thurston | drum tuition

Hi Hat Ostinato Variations

This exercise looks at common hi hat variations over the 8th note and 16th note kick drum patterns studied in earlier worksheets. Each is written with a simple kick/snare groove underneath, but should be developed and practiced with each of the groove variations introduced on those sheets. Work on one line at a time and break before moving on to the next pattern.

The image displays seven musical staves, numbered 1 through 7, each representing a different hi-hat ostinato variation. Each staff is written in 4/4 time and features a consistent kick/snare groove in the lower register. The upper register shows the hi-hat pattern with 'x' marks indicating the points of contact. Staff 1 shows a continuous eighth-note hi-hat pattern. Staff 2 shows a continuous quarter-note hi-hat pattern. Staff 3 shows a pattern where the hi-hat is only played on the off-beats (the '&' of each beat). Staff 4 shows a continuous eighth-note hi-hat pattern with a slight syncopation. Staff 5 shows a continuous eighth-note hi-hat pattern with a different syncopation. Staff 6 shows a continuous eighth-note hi-hat pattern with yet another syncopation. Staff 7 shows a continuous eighth-note hi-hat pattern with a final syncopation.

- Notes:
- 1) Counted 1 & 2 &, etc
 - 2) Counted 1, 2, etc
 - 3) Hi hat is played on the '&' of each beat
 - 4) Counted 1 e & a 2 e & a, etc
 - 5) Counted 1, & a 2, & a, etc (miss the 'e')
 - 6) Counted 1 e &, 2 e &, etc (miss the 'a')
 - 7) Counted 1 e, a 2 e, a, etc (miss the '&')