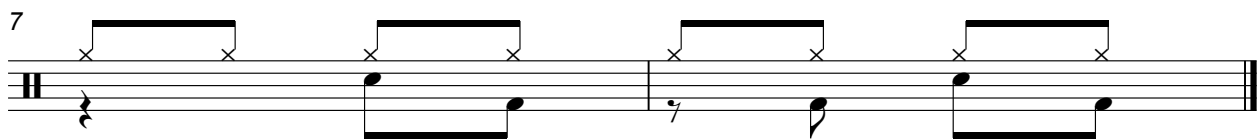
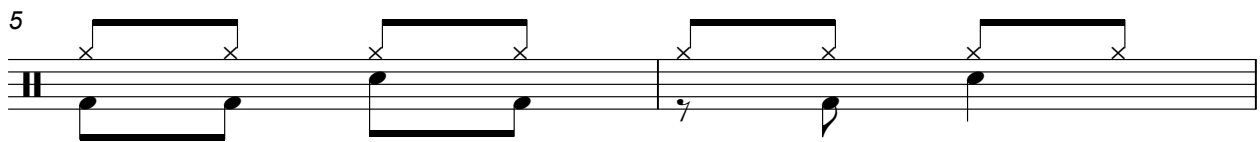
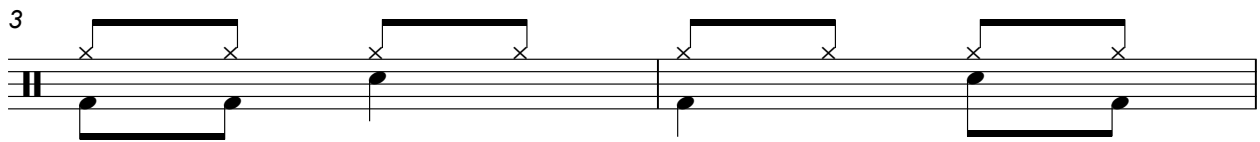
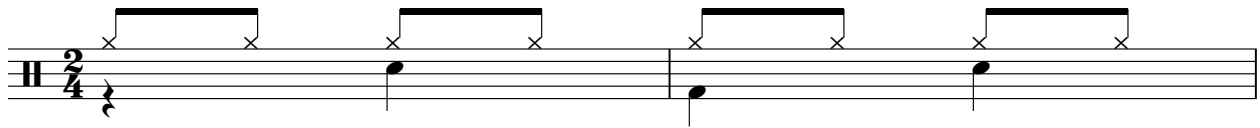


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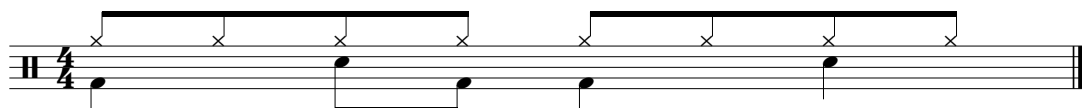
Simple Kick Drum Variations

This exercise is designed to build your initial repertoire of groove patterns. When first learning the patterns, repeat each of the individual bars separately until they feel comfortable and sound consistent.



Once you have mastered each of the individual bars, here are a few fun games you can play with them:

1) You will need a dice for this one. Shake the dice once. The number it shows will become the first bar of a two bar pattern. Shake the dice a second time. This will choose the second half of your pattern. So, for example, say your first shake gave you number 4 and your second 2, you would play bar 4 followed by bar 2, as shown below. Repeat each two bar phrase until it is comfortable and consistent.



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Simple Kick Drum Variations

2) Another good (though more tricky) exercise is to take one bar as the lead bar of the two bar cycle, and work your way through playing each of the eight bars as the second bar.

Lets put that into context. For this example we will use bar 6 as our lead bar. So we would play bar 4 followed by bar 1, then bar 4 followed by bar 2, 4 followed by 3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8. Keep a steady tempo throughout this, and do not break between bars. Here are the first four bars of what you would play in this example.

The image shows four staves of drum notation in 4/4 time, labeled 1, 2, 3, and 4. Each staff represents a two-bar cycle. The first bar of each cycle (the lead bar) is identical and consists of a kick drum pattern: quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note. The second bars vary: bar 1 has a quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note; bar 2 has a quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note; bar 3 has a quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note; bar 4 has a quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note, quarter note.

... and so on.

Once you have mastered these two exercises, feel free to devise your own ways of mixing up the grooves. The key objective here is to enable your foot to play what you want it to, when you want it to, but you'll probably find some really useful patterns in the process. Make a note of these, as you may well want to use them in the future.