

DEVELOPING 12/8 BLUES: FILL VARIATIONS

When playing fills in 12/8 it can be hard to come up with some creative ideas for fills. The following exercises will walk through some simple ideas that will hopefully inspire you to come up with your own. Combine them, change the voices (drums you hit) or rearrange them as you like.

Once you are happy with your fill choice, substitute the groove sequence for something a little more interesting (you could refer to an additional 12/8 Blues Development sheet).

SIMPLE EIGHTH NOTE FILLS:

Ex. 1

R L R L R L

Ex. 2

R L R L R L

ADD SOME FLAMS:

Ex. 3

L R L R R L R L R L R L

Ex. 4

L R L R R L R L R L R L

SUBDIVIDE YOUR EIGHTH NOTE FILLS FURTHER:

Ex. 5

R R L R L

Ex. 6

R L R R R L R L R L