

1-BEAT FILL IDEAS

It's easy to feel limited and simply stick to the simple fills we know. Hopefully these exercises will help you come up with your own variations and unlock your creativity. The aim here is to give you some creative ideas so you can start confidently using fills to transition between sections.

Start by playing a simple idea on the snare:

Ex. 1

Now we will change the **orchestration** slightly:

Ex. 2

Let's change the orchestration in a different way:

Ex. 3

Let's change the orchestration further:

Ex. 4

Now try orchestrating the fill wherever you like:

This means to play the rhythm notated, but it's up to you to orchestrate it as you like

Ex. 5

Repeat **Ex. 1 - 5** again but with the following fill:

Ex. 6

Try coming up with a fill of your own on the spot:

Ex. 7

2-BEAT FILL IDEAS

If you are comfortable with simple 1-beat fills (see separate page), why not try making them a little longer? Here we are going to use the same process, but with a 2-beat fill. These are great for transitions from a verse to a chorus.

Start by playing a simple idea on the snare:

Ex. 1

Now we will change the **orchestration** slightly:

Ex. 2

Let's change the orchestration in a different way:

Ex. 3

Let's combine these two orchestration ideas:

Ex. 4

Now try orchestrating the fill wherever you like:

This means to play the rhythm notated, but it's up to you to orchestrate it as you like

Ex. 5

Repeat **Ex. 1 - 5** again but with the following fill:

Ex. 6

Try coming up with a fill of your own on the spot:

Ex. 7