

Creating Beats lesson 10 26th June 2020

Hi, and welcome to another lesson on 'beat making'. I hope you enjoyed last week's advanced techniques on creating grooves by using additive techniques.

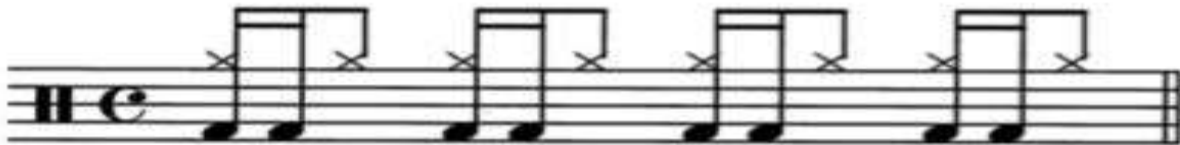
Today we will come back to the Breakbeat, learning new techniques and analysing new songs.

The Fourth Element. The kick drum playing two 16th notes in a row.

This adds a lot more power and strength to a beat. It also opens a new realm of possibilities for creating variety within the groove (making only one drum beat and repeating it is the first step but if you want to sound professional it is good to add some variations). Like the first three elements, it also helps determine the flow and swing.

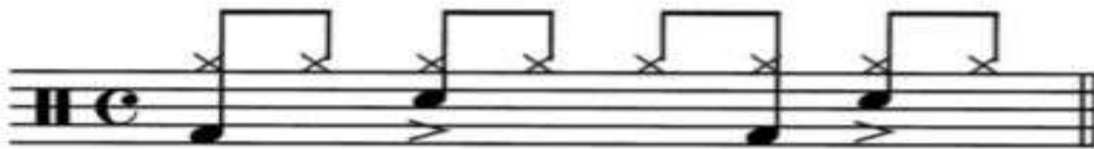
The fourth element is another cornerstone of Breakbeat drumming. Remember, regardless of what is happening in the rest of the bar, the kik usually plays a slightly accented note on the beginning of beat 1.

Here's what the kick drum notated on the "1-e," "2-e," "3-e," and "4-e" looks like:



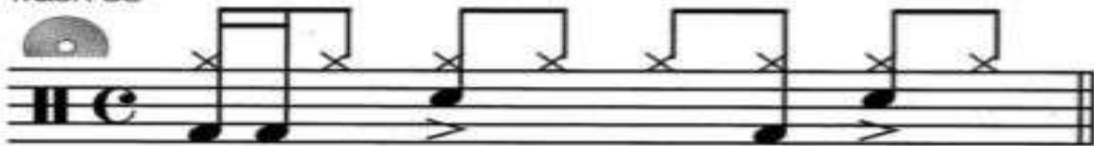
1	e	&	a	2	e	&	a	3	e	&	a	4	e	&	a
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So if you start from a very basic beat (Kick on the 1 and 3 , snare in the 2 and 4 (back beat)



Here's the basic beat with a kick note added on the "e" of 1. Now there are two 16th notes in a row:

Track 33



1	e	&	a	2	e	&	a	3	e	&	a	4	e	&	a
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Let's study some songs: I will always give you the boxes with the 16 steps so you can transfer that to the piano roll, you know now where the kick snare and hihat are!. Don't rush through this hand out. Take time, make sense of it. Visit the youtube link to listen to the songs, listen to them 2 or three times at least. Try to learn how the drums sound.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cTrdMjfXDDg>

This break, featuring drummer Cedrick Sharpley, illustrates the fourth element. The break occurs at the beginning at about the 5th second where the drums starts.

~99 bpm
0:05

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

This song was sampled for the GZA song **'live is a movie'** from the album Pro Tools (Babygrande Records 2008). GZA, who also produced the track, basically just used a few different bars taken from the song 'Films' as is for the 'Life is a Movie' beat. It sounds tight, and that fill at the end of the second bar of the 'films' break loops through **'life is a movie'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkhQYsGiBDE>



Well done for making it to the end of today's lesson.

Remember to review this handout sometime. It would help you to build up a solid foundation on which to make your bits. These rhythms are very fun, try to count them as I taught you in previous lessons. If you have access to Logic you can try sequencing them.

Coming next week we will study another song that still uses the fourth element. But in a different way. Stay studious and positive.