



Sound Enhanced

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Rock Etude I

BY JOHN MARK PIPER

"Rock Etude 1" introduces drummers to reading rhythmic slashes with improvised fills for drumset while keeping their place in the written chart. The etude is intended to be an accompaniment to an improvised drumset solo. There are seven basic steps I use when offering this lesson.

1. Play rhythmic slashes (only) as written on a single surface.
2. Play rhythmic slashes (only) on any surface on the drumset, changing surfaces and sounds at will.
3. Play constant quarter notes, assigning all rhythmic slashes to the right hand on cymbal with bass drum support. Play all "fill slashes" with the left hand on any other surface (also reverse hands).
4. Play constant eighth notes, playing all rhythmic slashes with the right hand on a cymbal with bass drum support and all other eighth notes on any other surface. Using alternating sticking will place all rhythmic slashes in the right hand if starting with the right hand. (Also reverse hands.)
5. Play constant sixteenth notes on any surface beginning with the right hand. Play all rhythmic slashes on the cymbal with bass drum support. (Also reverse hands.)
6. Play constant eighth-note triplets on any surface beginning with the right hand. Play all rhythmic slashes on the cymbal with bass drum support. This will alternate the hands playing the rhythmic slashes.
7. Improvise throughout the piece while keeping your place in the written chart.

Drumset

7

14

20

27

John Mark Piper is a vibraphonist, drummer, composer, and teacher residing in the Dallas, Texas area. He is the author of the sight-reading and music series books *The Shapes and Patterns of Music Volumes I and II*, *The Shapes and Patterns of Rhythm*, and *The Shapes and Patterns of Rhythm with Melody*. His main focus is Piper's Loft, Inc., which specializes in educating beginning and intermediate students. **PN**