

Easy Double Kick Licks

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So you just hooked up your new double bass drum pedals? Or added your best friend's vintage 26" to your existing setup? Don't know what to do next? Well, dig up that copy of Stick Control and get woodshedding. But while you're searching for it, try playing with these simple exercises that develop hand/foot coordination (and sound great!).

Start with two notes on the snare [one Right, one Left];
echoed by the bass drum(s) [Right foot, Left foot].

Then play four notes with the hands,
still followed by two with the feet.

Make sure to practice these exercises slowly, keeping the tempo and volume even, relaxed and steady. Above all else, make each pattern GROOVE! The next step is combining A and B to create a longer phrase. There are many possible combinations. We are going to use an A+B+B combination, which fits nicely into a measure of 4/4 time.

Now we'll move our hands around the toms. E has two notes on the MidTom and two on the LowTom. D uses two notes on the HighTom. D+E+E . . .

Of course, the hands don't always have to stick together.

Here are a few more combinations for you to play with. Hopefully these give you ideas of your own. Be creative. Take this concept, make up as many combinations as you can conjure up, and go nuts with them. Just remember to be tasteful and musical.

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