



Basic Jazz Groove

The basic jazz groove is made up of four simple parts. We're going to combine them together one at a time.

The first thing to get is the ride cymbal rhythm. This is notated below:

Count:            1                    2                    +                    3                    4                    +

Drum Set

Next, we are adding a hihat with the left leg on beats two and four. This combination of ride cymbal and hihat is incredibly important, as it forms the basis of jazz time:

Count:            1                    2                    3                    4

Drum Set

Next, we add a *ghosted* bass drum on the quarter note (i.e. beats one, two, three and four). Its imperative that the bass drum is played lightly - feathered. This is not rock music, the bass drum does not drive the band. The ride cymbal and hihat do:

Count:            1                    2                    3                    4

Drum Set

Finally, we add a snare drum on the backbeat (beats two and four). But don't play it loudly, as with the bass drum play it quietly:

Count:            1                    2                    3                    4

Drum Set

And there we have it. Basic jazz. Go find a jazz record and play along with it.