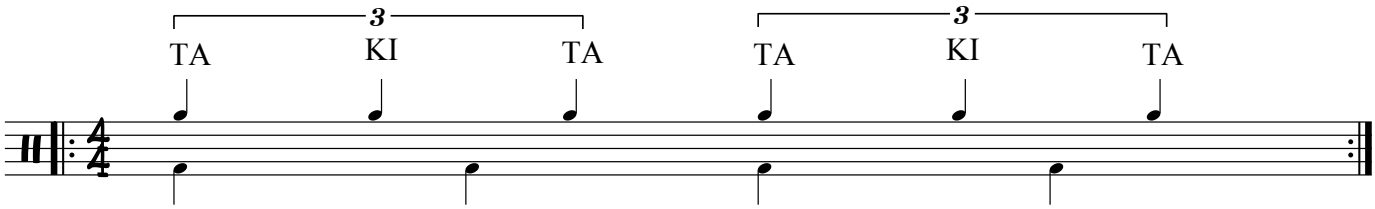
An Introduction To Indian Rhythms
Part 1: Modulating Phrases

Pete Lockett

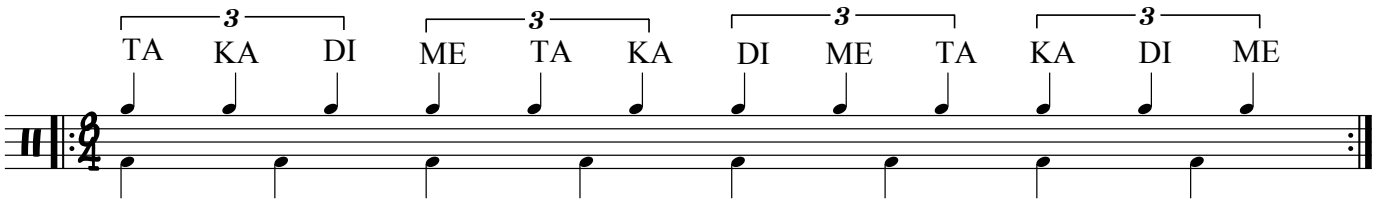
The Five Main Rhythmic Units

Number Of Beats	Subdivision	Syllables	Name
3 beats	3	TA-KI-TA	Tisram
4 beats	4	TA-KA-DI-ME	Chaturusram
5 beats	2+3 OR 5	TA-KA TA-KI-TA or TA-TI-KI-DA-TUM	Kandam
7 beats	3+4	TA-KI-TA TA-KA-DI-ME	Misram
9 beats	4+5	TA-KA-DI-ME - TA-TI-KI-DA-TUM	Shankeernam

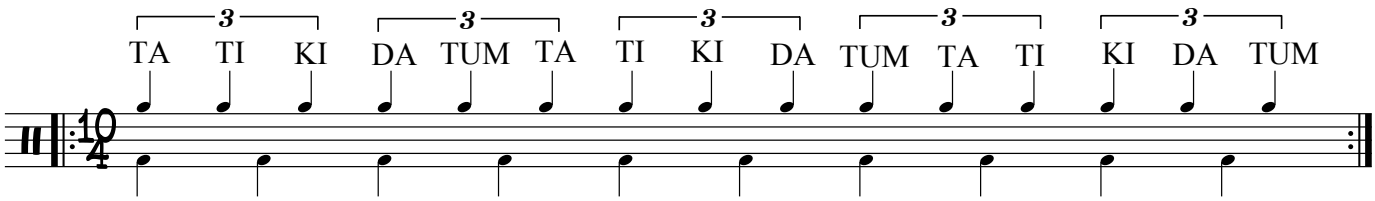
Exercise 1 (3 +3)



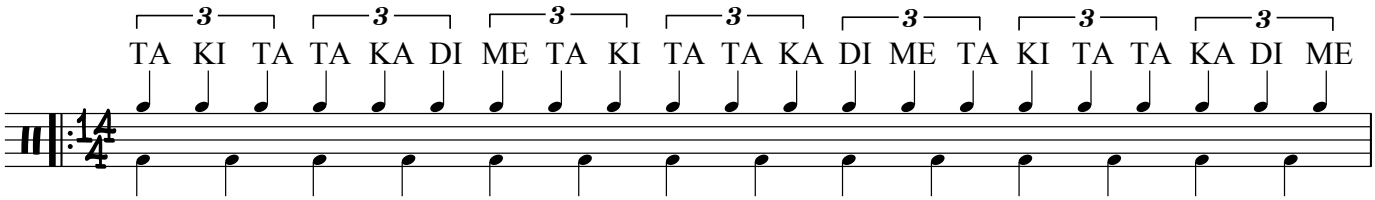
Exercise 2 (4+4+4)



Exercise 3(5+5+5)



Exercise 4 (7+7+7)



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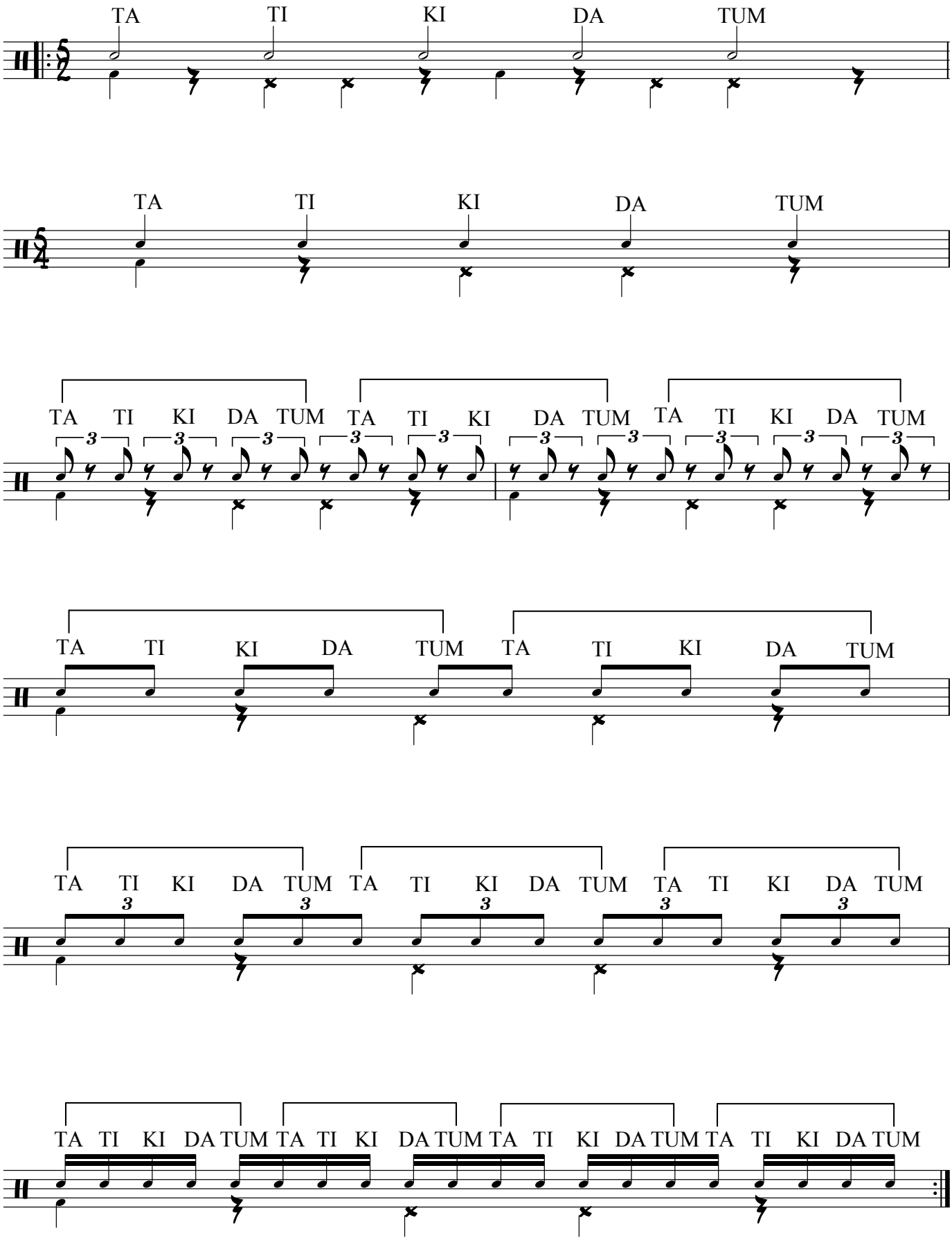
Exercise 5: Five-beat unit modulation



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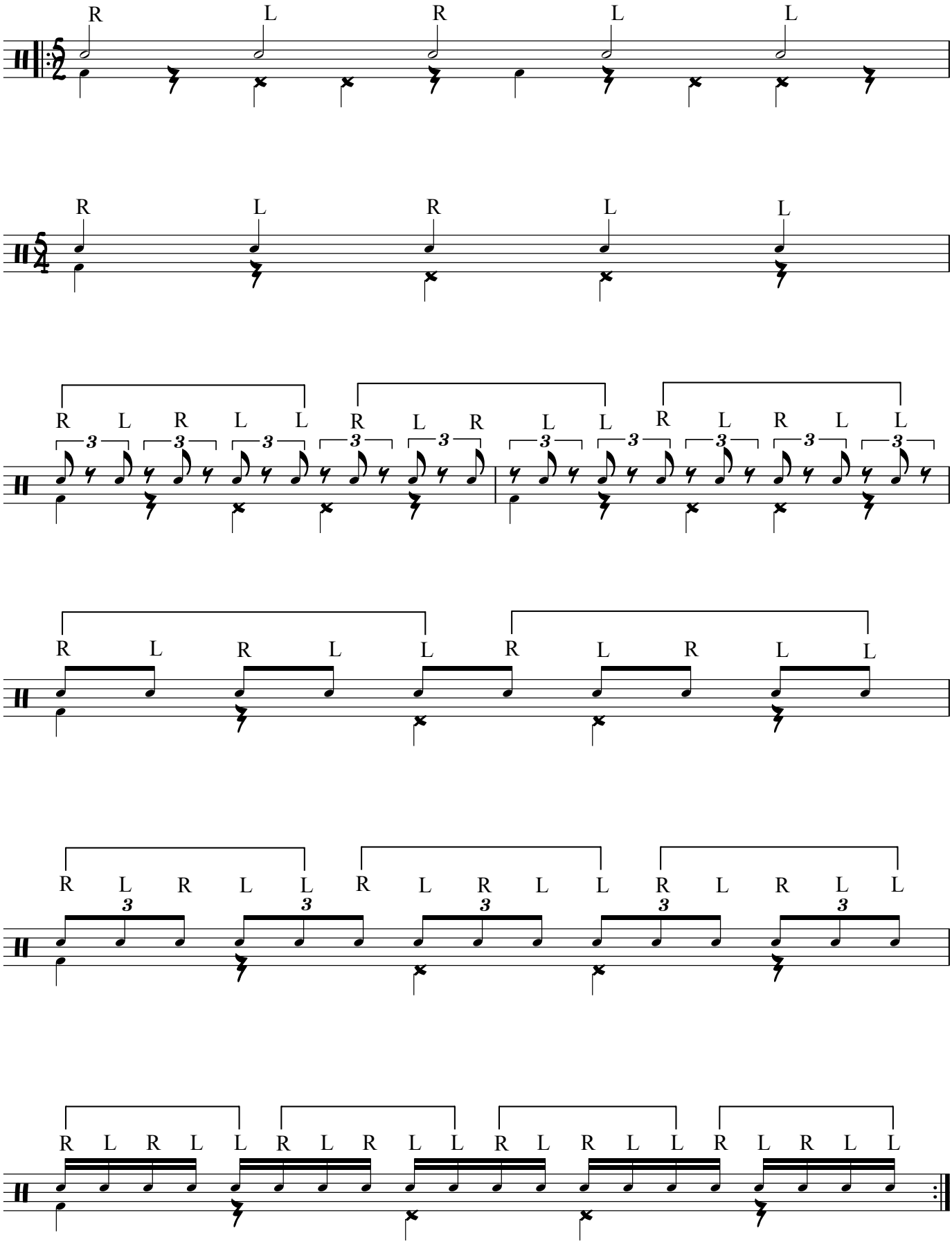
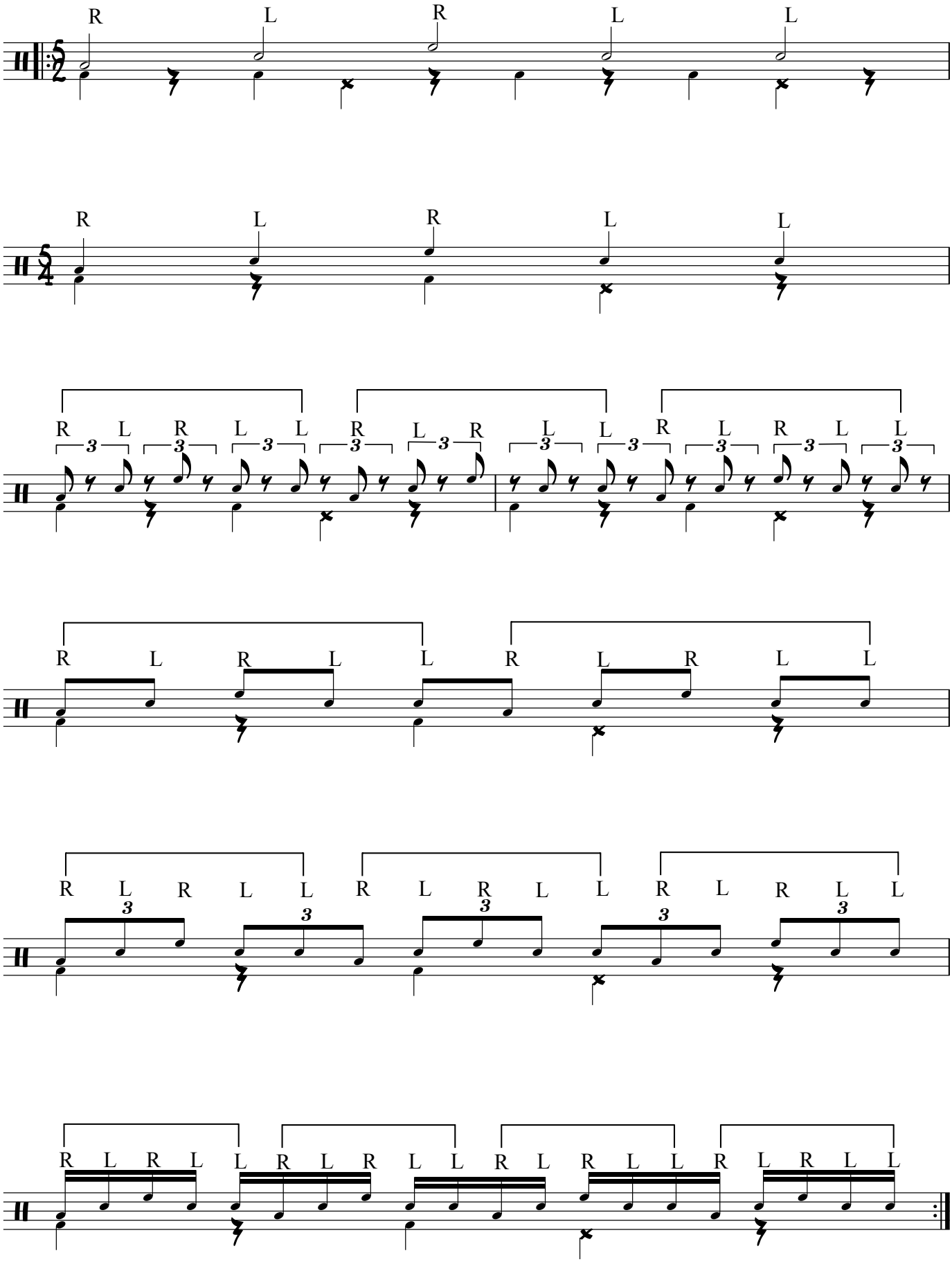
Exercise 6: Five-beat unit modulation with sticking



Exercise 7: Five-beat unit modulation with sticking, orchestrated on the kit



Counting Gaps

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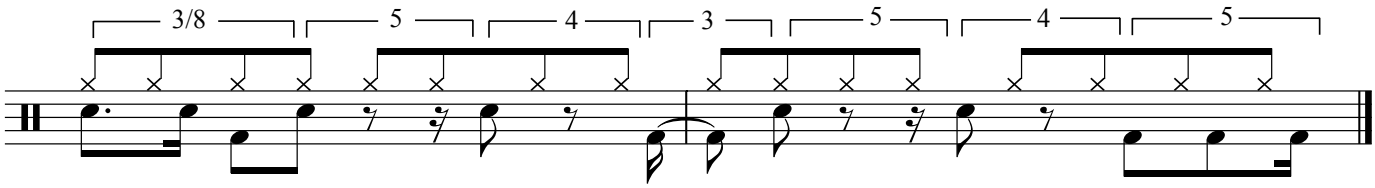
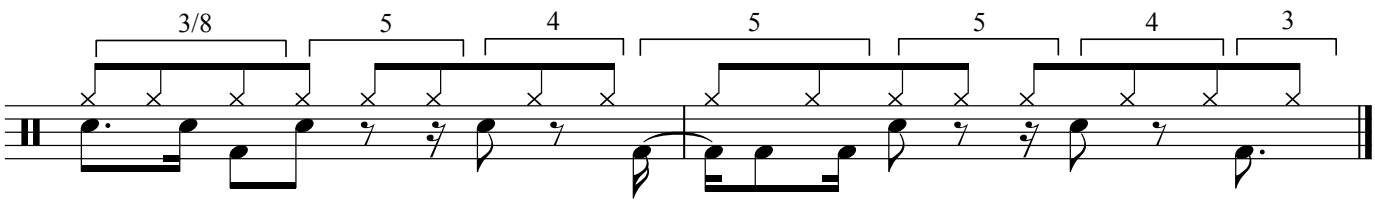
Here are keys to some common gaps:

Exercise 1	3: THA - (GA)
Exercise 2	4: THA - (AH) -
Exercise 3	5: THA - (AH) - (GA)
Exercise 4	6: THA - (GA) THA - (GA) or THA - (AH) - (AH) -
Exercise 5	7: THA - (AH) - (AH) - (GA)
Exercise 6	8: THA - - - (AH) - - -
Exercise 7	9: THA - (AH) - (AH) - (AH) - (GA)

Exercise 8: The 'A' Section (written in 4/4) x4



Exercise 9: 'B' Section (written in 4/4) x4



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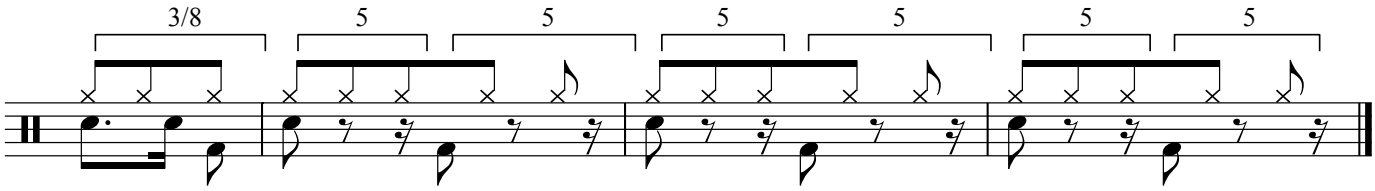
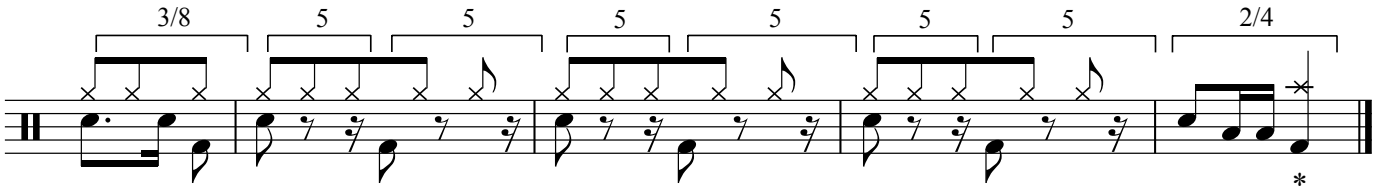
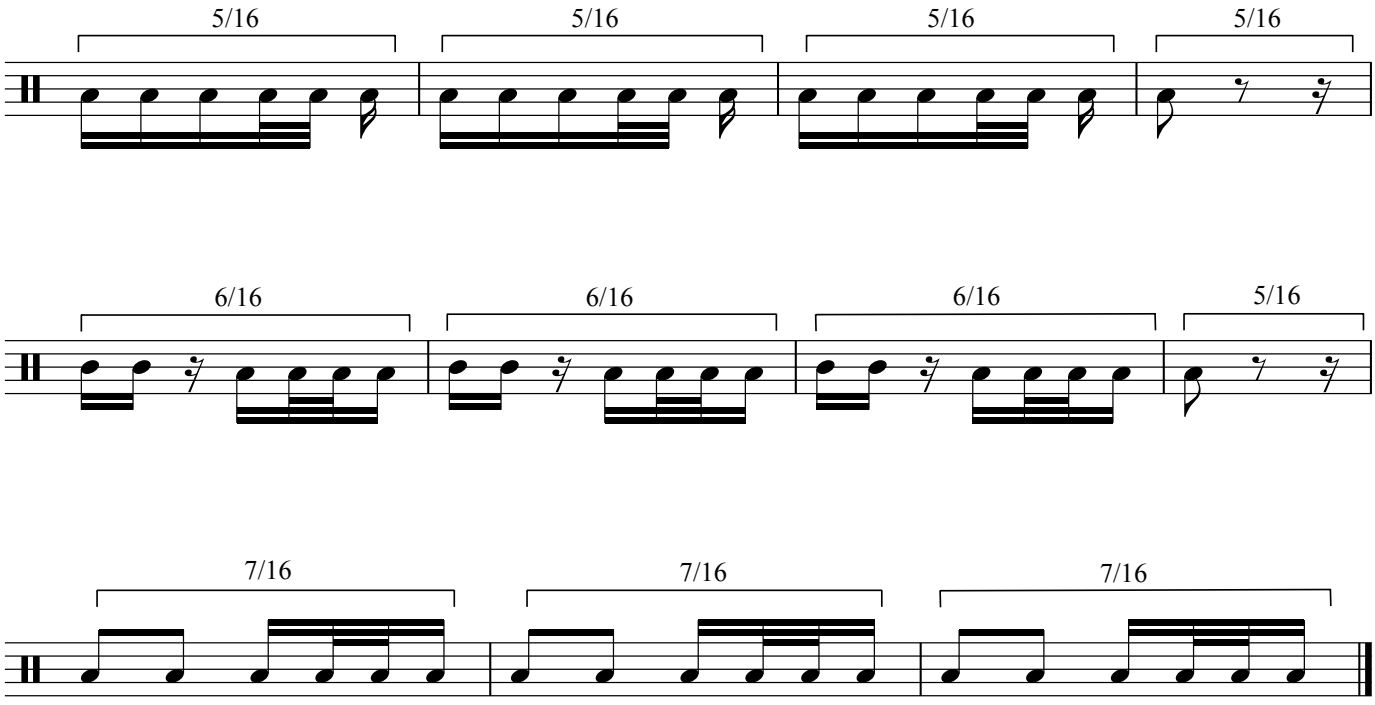
Exercise 10: 'C' Section (not in 4/4) x4



Exercise 11: 'D' Section (not in 4/4) x3 * On the third time through, the last note becomes beat 1



Exercise 12: 'E' Section



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