

the fabric of time



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INDIAN RHYTHMIC CONCEPTS FOR DRUM SET PART 9

SEPTUPLETS

TA KA DI ME TA KI TA TA KA DI ME TA KI TA TA KA DI ME TA KI TA TA KA DI ME TA KI TA

Now we'll try this on the snare drum with our feet 'walking' the crotchet pulse:

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

Now let's divide it 3-4 and go through the same procedure:

TA KI TA TA KA DI ME TA KI TA TA KA DI ME TA KI TA TA KA DI ME TA KI TA TA VA DI ME

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

► With another accent it will sound like this:

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L

When South Indian percussionists refer to 'grooves' they use the terms 'Naray'. The theka most commonly played in misra gati is this:

NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM

The subtleties of the rhythms are then developed by sub-divisions and rearrangements of the component parts. In part seven the first three crotchets are divided 3-4 whilst the fourth is divided 4-3. This seems to create a nice natural cadence to the flow of the rhythm:

NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM DIM TA KI TA

Let's go to the kit now and use these structures to build some rhythms. In Example 8 the right hand plays the hi-hat, while the left stays on the snare:

NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM DIM TA KI TA

For Example 9 the right hand plays the ride and the left hand plays the snare – apart from where I've indicated the sticking. Notice how the hi-hat foot marks time:

NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM DIM TA KI TA

To finish off with we'll elaborate on this rhythm by introducing Tom and Tom:

NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM TA NAM DIM NAM DIM TA KI TA

Now we've got this far, let's go back and look at something we might (or might not) have missed. Play Example 8 again and listen to the hi-hat pattern. Notice how it cuts through the rhythm. Try playing it on a cowbell or another instrument with a cutting sound. When you've got comfortable with it, take the hi-hat line only and use it as a base from which you can build other rhythms.