

the fabric of time



INDIAN RHYTHMIC CONCEPTS FOR DRUM SET PART 16

'Shankeerna Gati' is the South Indian term meaning nine beats for each crotchet. It is only rarely played, mainly because of the problem in playing it off at an acceptable tempo.

Example 1



Traditionally the Shankeernan unit is divided 4 + 5...

TA KA DI ME / TA KA TA KI TA

I remember having trouble with this when trying to impose it in the time space of one crotchet. I soon discovered a foolproof way of dividing the rhythm, 3 + 3 + 3...

TA KI TA / TA KI TA / TA KI TA

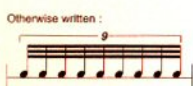
To explain how easy this makes it, let's start off with a triplet for each crotchet.

Example 2



Then what you do is divide each single note into three. You then have Shankeerna Gati.

Example 3



This is the key to understanding the time shift we will now look at. We'll start by going from 8 notes per crotchet, into 9 notes per crotchet. Take a slow tempo and use a metronome. A good

way to practise with the metronome is to aim for a 1 hour non-stop session. Speed the metronome up one notch every ten minutes. Develop the speed at a rate your technique will allow. The goal of each ten-minute platform is to be patient and make the time feel 'nice'. Don't think, "Oh, I can do it at that speed, let's try faster". If this is your philosophy then your time will always sound anxious and rushed.

Example 4



The key, or fundamental structure that should be in your mind while you do this exercise is this:

Example 5



It might be easier to understand the shift from '3' into '9' if we looked at the triplet as a bar of 3/8.

Example 6



Therefore,

Example 7



Right, back to 4/4. Here is a sticking variation of example 4, with accents.

