

Solo in Style

Six Drumset Etudes for the
Beginning to Intermediate Performer

By Mark Powers



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Solo 1: Rock, Paper, Scissors

Eighth-Note Primer

Our first solo, *Rock, Paper, Scissors*, consists almost entirely of eighth notes, usually counted:

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

At measure 24 we begin to come across some faster (sixteenth-note) subdivisions, but they only occur in a few fills.

Eighth-note grooves have been used in countless songs since the emergence of rock'n'roll in the 1950s. The eighth-note time-feel, then, is a logical one for any beginning drumset player to explore first.

Suggested Songs for Listening and Play-Along

"Billie Jean" — Michael Jackson

"You Shook Me All Night Long" — AC/DC

"Boulevard of Broken Dreams" — Green Day

"You Really Got Me" — The Kinks

Rock, Paper, Scissors

The first system of music is in 4/4 time and begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The upper staff features a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, many of which are marked with an 'x' to indicate a specific articulation. The lower staff provides a steady bass line with quarter notes and rests.

The second system continues the piece, starting at measure 5. It maintains the same rhythmic and articulation patterns as the first system. A hairpin crescendo is visible at the end of the system, indicating a gradual increase in volume.

The third system begins at measure 9 and features a forte (*f*) dynamic. The upper staff continues with the 'x' articulation, while the lower staff has a more active bass line with eighth notes and quarter notes.

The fourth system starts at measure 13 with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The upper staff has a more melodic line with slurs and accents, while the lower staff continues with a steady bass line.

The fifth system begins at measure 17 and returns to the complex rhythmic pattern of the first system, with 'x' articulation in the upper staff and a steady bass line in the lower staff.