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INTRODUCTION

This book has been a labor of love for the last five years. I first thought of writing this book because many students would complain that they didn't know what to play when it came to fills. Some students would see me play and ask about how I played a particular fill. I started compiling a list of my own fills. I also looked around and found that although there are countless books on grooves and beats, there really wasn't a comprehensive guide to playing drums fills. I began to develop the idea through teaching my fills to students. Over time, I had compiled 500 of my own fills and over 200 fills from my drum heroes, and so ***Filling in the Grooves*** was born. There are many more fills that I wasn't able to fit into this book—but I see a Vol. 2 in my future! Writing this book has been such a fun journey for my students and I, since I've tried these fills out on students from all around the globe!

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book is arranged as a series motifs or themes. At the beginning of each theme there is a short introduction to what inspired that particular page. On the corresponding notated page there are a few *practice segments* that precede the fills. I highly recommend repeating these segments until you have the muscle memory necessary to execute each fill with ease. Pay attention to the stickings and suggested hand movements, but feel free to experiment with your own. I've divided my fills into 52 different pages. I recommend practicing one page a week until you master all of the material over a year—or simply move at your own pace. There are no rules, so feel free to move around the book in any order you like. Use the reference grooves at the beginning of each page so that you can practice the fills in context. Play the grooves in 4- 8- 12- and 16-bar cycles. Play three bars of time and fill on the fourth bar. Play seven bars of time and fill on the eighth bar, etc.



After my fills I've included a tribute section. This section is comprised of transcriptions of fills from some of my drumming heroes that have inspired me throughout my life. I felt that I could have written an endless amount of fills, but I had to narrow down my choices or I'd still be writing this book! At the end of the book I've included an index of all of the practice segments so you can mix, match and create your own.

I sincerely hope that this book serves as a source of inspiration for drummers of all styles and levels. I hope that if you are a teacher you find this to be helpful and fun to explore with your students. I've spent a long time working on it, and it is truly an honor to have someone enjoy the material within these pages.



Back To Basics

STRAIGHT ROCK

Jim Toscano and Frank Ferrara

♩ = 100

Opening fill

1X Melody, 2x Guitar Solo

5

Fill

10

Fill

14

Guitar Solo 2, (more open 1x, more intense 2nd x)

18

Fill

22

DS AL CODA

Fill

26

Fill