

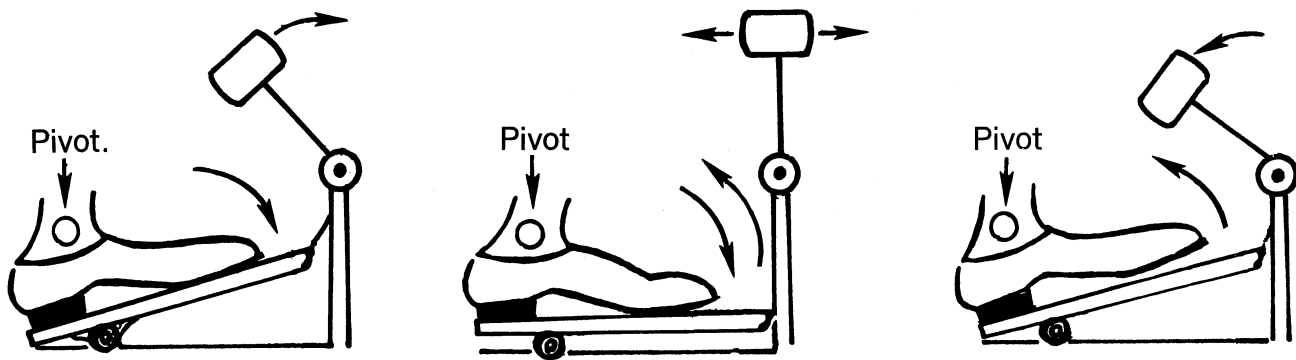
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PLAYING THE BASS DRUM

As in all types of dance music, the bass drum in Rock & Roll is of the utmost importance, not only as just a time-keeper, but also as the bass part, or “bottom” of each rhythm. For this reason, the following series of bass drum exercises has been included. These exercises will be most beneficial, both musically and technically, if the following points are adhered to while practicing:

*Keep the heel on the foot-pedal at all times, while turning only the ankle to strike a note. The striking action is forward to play a note, then *immediately* back to the original position when the note has been struck.*



Do not press the beater into the head to play a note. Rather, snap the beater back from the head as soon as a note has been struck, so as not to muffle the sound. This technique will also eventually result in a stronger, while more relaxed, bass drum foot.

When the heel-down technique has been mastered, extremely loud accents may be made with the heel raised and the toe performing the striking motion. In this case, the weight of the leg will add to the power of the accent, but it is still to be remembered that *the beater must not be pressed into the drum-head.*

THE BASIC TRIPLET (OR "12/8") ROCK & ROLL RHYTHM

This Rock & Roll rhythm, used in pieces which are sometimes referred to as "Gospel", "Sanctified", "Funky", or so on, is also comprised of four elements: 1) eighth-note triplets, containing double sixteenth-notes during counts "1" and "3", played on the ride cymbal with the right hand; 2) the same rhythm, but with counts "2" and "4" accented, played on the snare drum with the left hand; 3) straight "four-to-the-bar" quarter-notes, played on the bass drum with the right foot; and 4) counts "2" and "4", played on the hi-hat with the left foot. Again, a step-by-step approach will insure proper mastery of the rhythm.

EXERCISE A: PREPARATORY RIDE CYMBAL BEAT

1 t t 2 t t 3 t t 4 t t

Ride Cymbal (right hand)

EXERCISE A-1: THE "GOSPEL" RIDE CYMBAL BEAT

1 t & t 2 t t 3 t & t 4 t t

Ride Cymbal (right hand)

EXERCISE B: ADDING THE BASS DRUM

1 t & t 2 t t 3 t & t 4 t t

Ride Cymbal (right hand)

Bass Drum (right foot)

EXERCISE C: ADDING THE HI-HAT

1 t & t 2 t t 3 t & t 4 t t

Ride Cymbal (right hand)

Bass Drum (right foot)

Hi-Hat (left foot)