

Making Grooves out of Lays in 5 and 7

Indian drummers, in particular, South Indian drummers, are quite skillful at making grooves out of lays in 5 and 7. Let's apply this concept to some Western grooves and make a rock beat out of a grouping of 5. We'll ease into it by first playing a grouping of 4. Here's the basic rhythm just on your snare first (use alternate sticking for all examples on this page).

58
Track
51

Let's now apply this as a rock beat. Your right hand will be on the hi-hat, while your left hand will be on the snare and using alternating sticking. You should play your left hand lightly on the snare, ghost noting.

59
Track
52

Let's keep both our hands on the hi-hat and create some bass and drum variations.

60
Track
53

61
Track
54

Be sure to experiment with different stickings, different combinations of the hi-hat and snare, and other bass drum variations as well.

You can also take these groupings of 5 and construct a jazz ride cymbal pattern. Here's the basic rhythm and sticking just on your snare first.

62

♩ = 100

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

Now, we'll put some of the right-hand sticking on the ride cymbal so that a jazz pattern is created. You should also try to ghost note the snare part so that the swing pattern can stand out.

63

Track 55

♩ = 100

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

Or, you can feel it in cut time and play a grouping of 5 over two beats, like this:

64

Track 56

♩ = 100

R L R L R R L R L R

You can also vary the snare part.

65

Track 57

♩ = 100

R L R L R L R L R L