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Written in Houston in March of 2025

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Introduction

Beginning Snare Drum And Drum Set Method Vol 1 is an introductory book for the aspiring student who is looking to get into the world of percussion for the first time. It's also a useful tool for the professional educator and is best used with a teacher. The concepts are introduced gradually, but the pieces aren't necessarily in order of difficulty and can definitely be played out of order.

Each of the lessons introduces a new rhythm or concept like quarter notes, quarter rests, eighth notes, piano/forte, accents, sixteenth notes, eighth rests, buzz strokes, mezzo piano/mezzo forte, and crescendos/decrescendos. Within each lesson, there are a number of etudes, solos, grooves, fills, and overarching rhythms for improvisation. There is also space for you to compose at the end of each lesson so that you can begin to exercise your creativity as soon as possible. At the end, I have also included abbreviated sheet music for a handful of popular songs.

A lot of the beginning drum books out there have you playing these exercises that don't necessarily sound like anything. If you zoom out, they just sound like random patterns so isn't quite clear for students why they should be playing something like 4 rights followed by 4 lefts. Therefore, I sought to write etudes and solos that have a certain melodic quality and lyrical to them. Each one has a certain arc and flow to it and resolves in a logical fashion. The etudes are shorter pieces that help you gain facility on the instrument in a broken down way while the solos sound more like songs on their own.

The grooves can be played on their own or you can play along with any number of popular songs and I listed a few that go with each groove. The fills are just sample ideas that help you work on going between a groove and a fill that's supposed to set up the following section. By repeating the 2 bars, it's a better way to prepare yourself for playing a fill as opposed to grooving for 15 bars, stumbling over a fill, and starting over.

The overarching rhythms for improvisation are where you play that rhythm over every single surface of the drum kit so that no shape feels foreign when you have to use it later. You will have already exhausted all of the possibilities.

I hope that you enjoy this book and continue with Vol 2 and 3 when you're done. Please reach out if you have any questions or ideas for additions.

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Quarter Notes and Quarter Rests

Eighth Notes

Piano and Forte

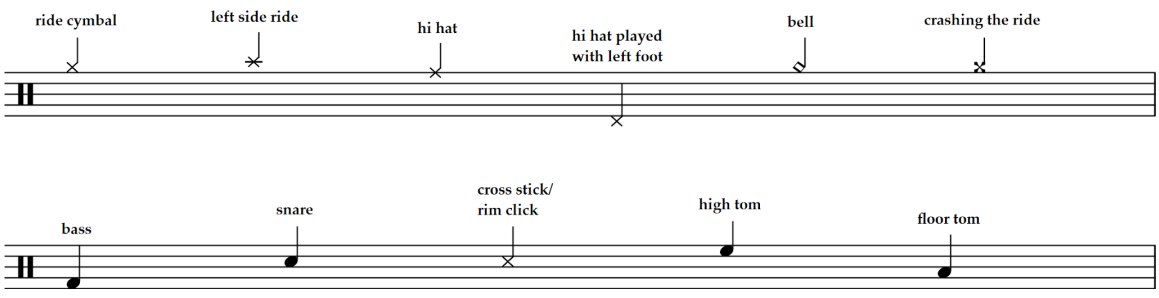
Accents

Sixteenth Notes

Eighth Rests
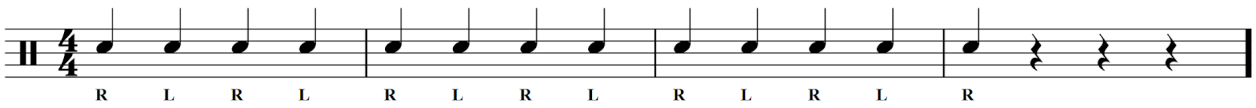
Buzz Strokes

Mezzo Piano, Mezzo Forte, Crescendo, and Decrescendo
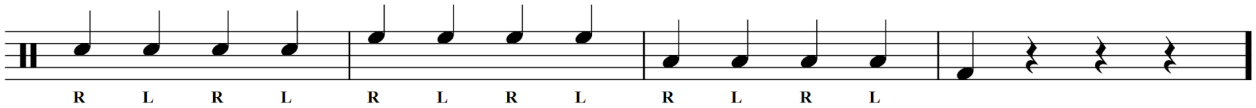


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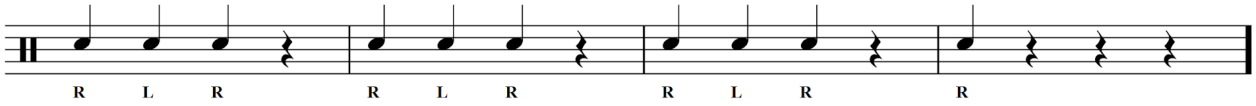
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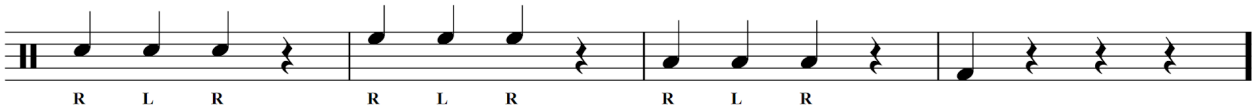


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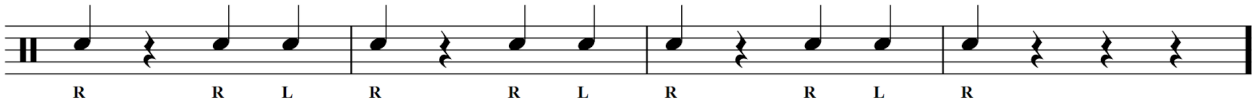


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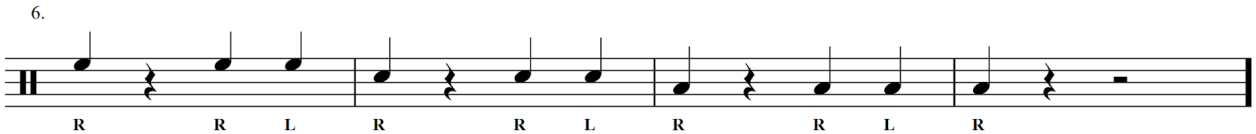


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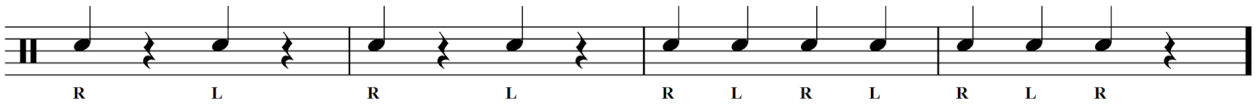


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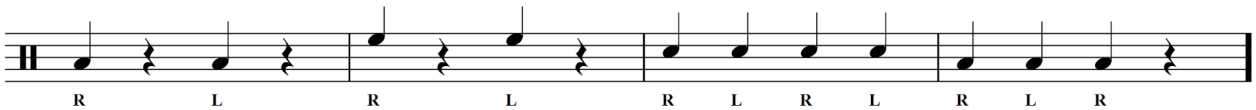


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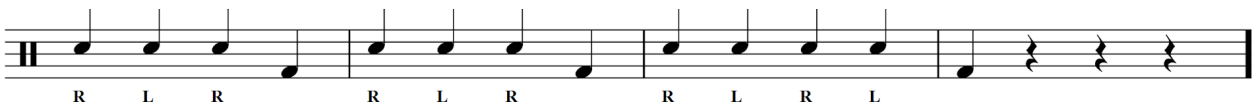


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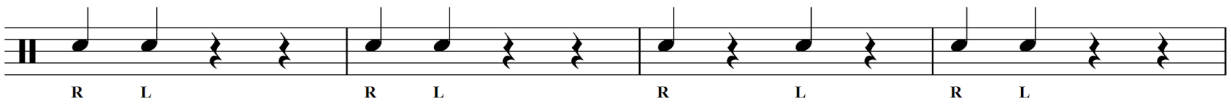


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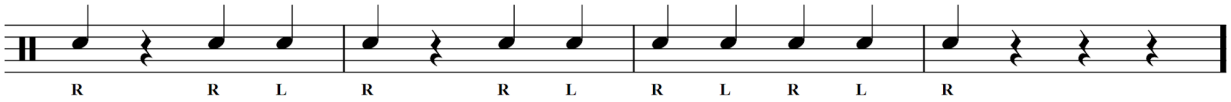


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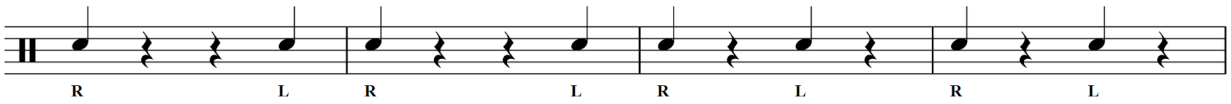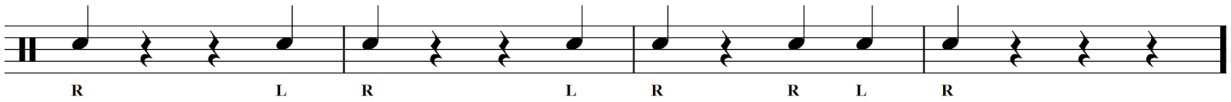


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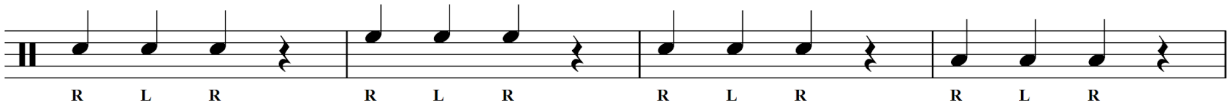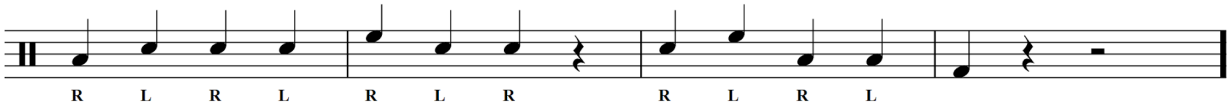




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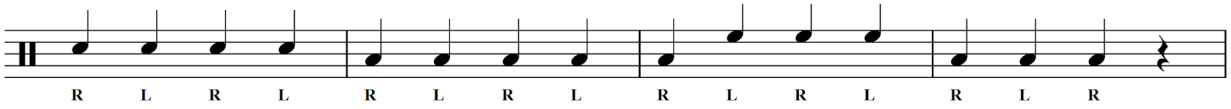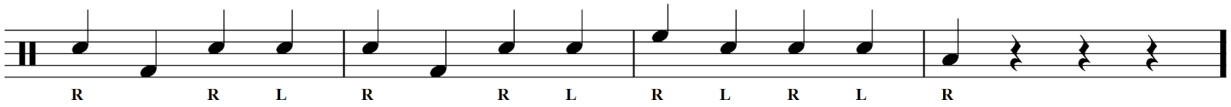




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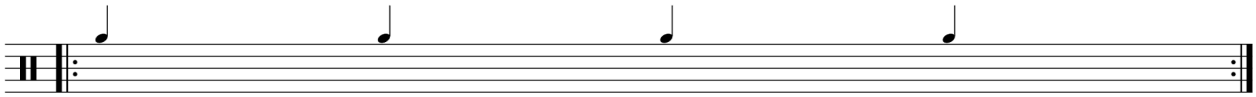




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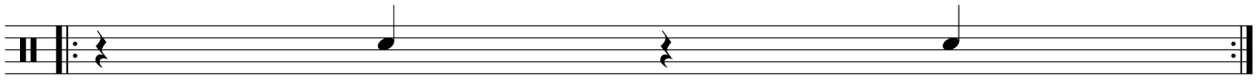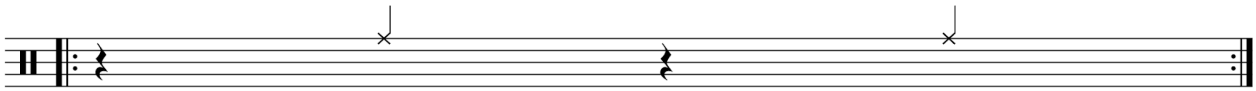




Find the steady beat on any song and play quarter notes on any surface



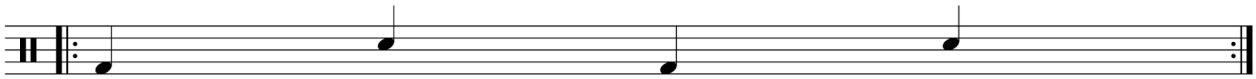
Find the backbeat on almost any song and play 2 and 4

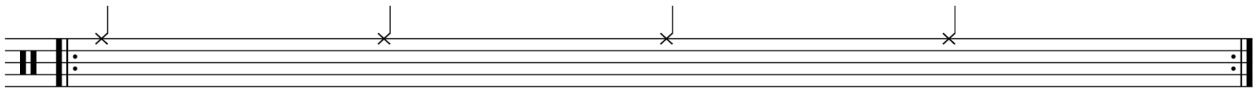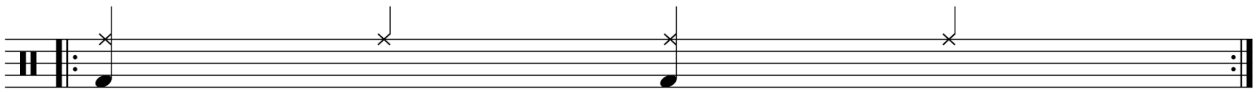


New Slang - The Shins

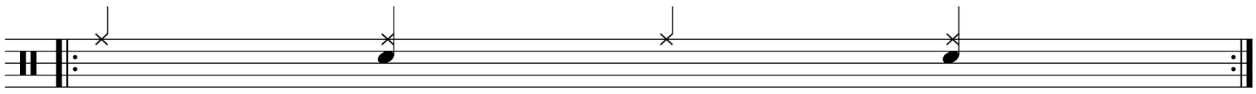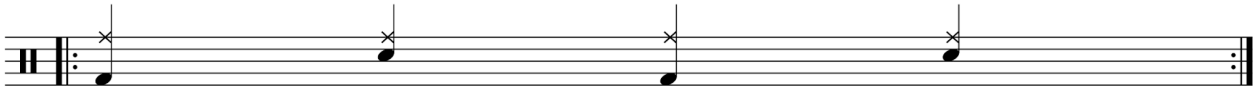


Do I Wanna Know? - Arctic Monkeys
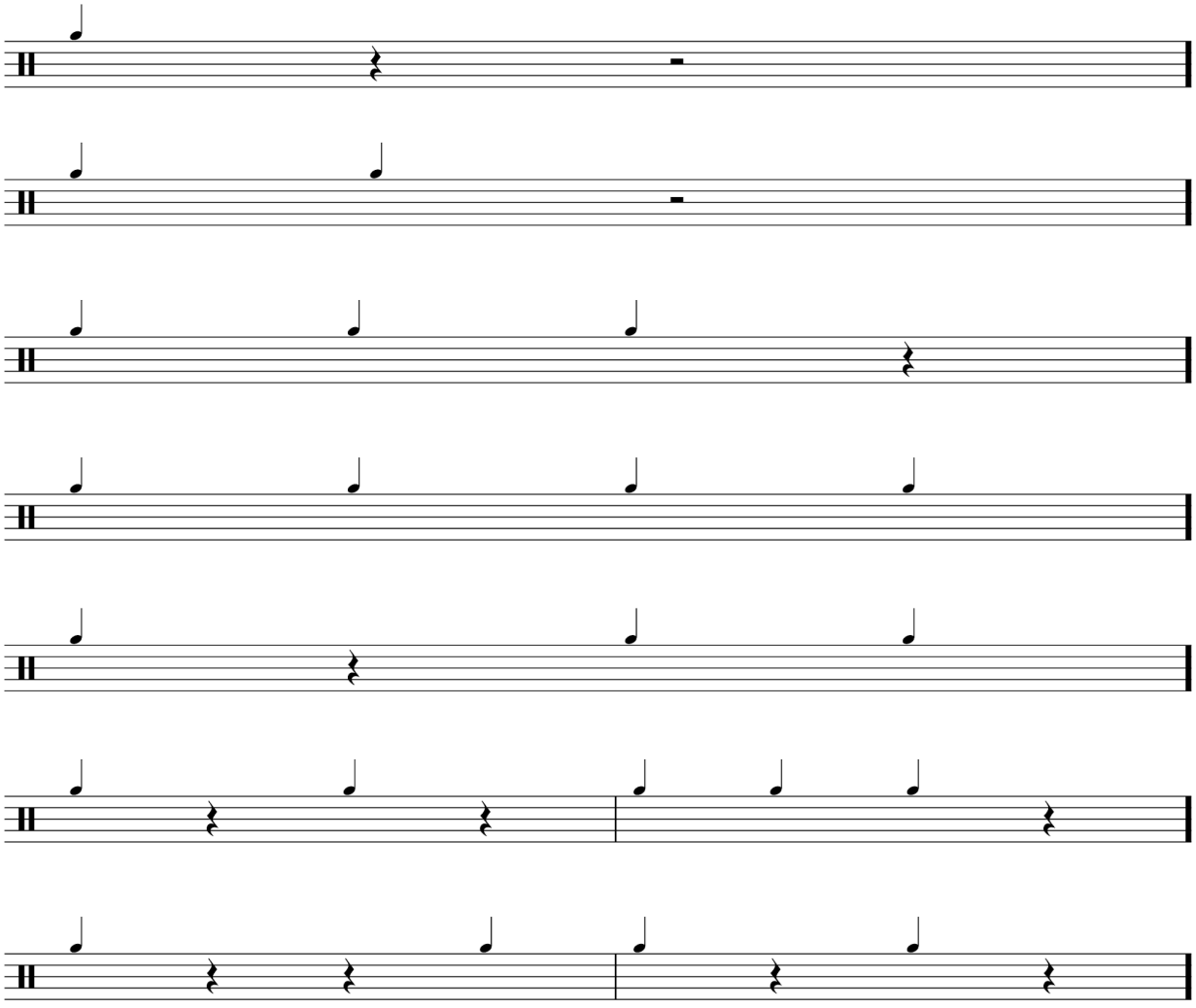








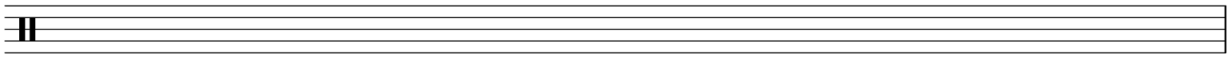


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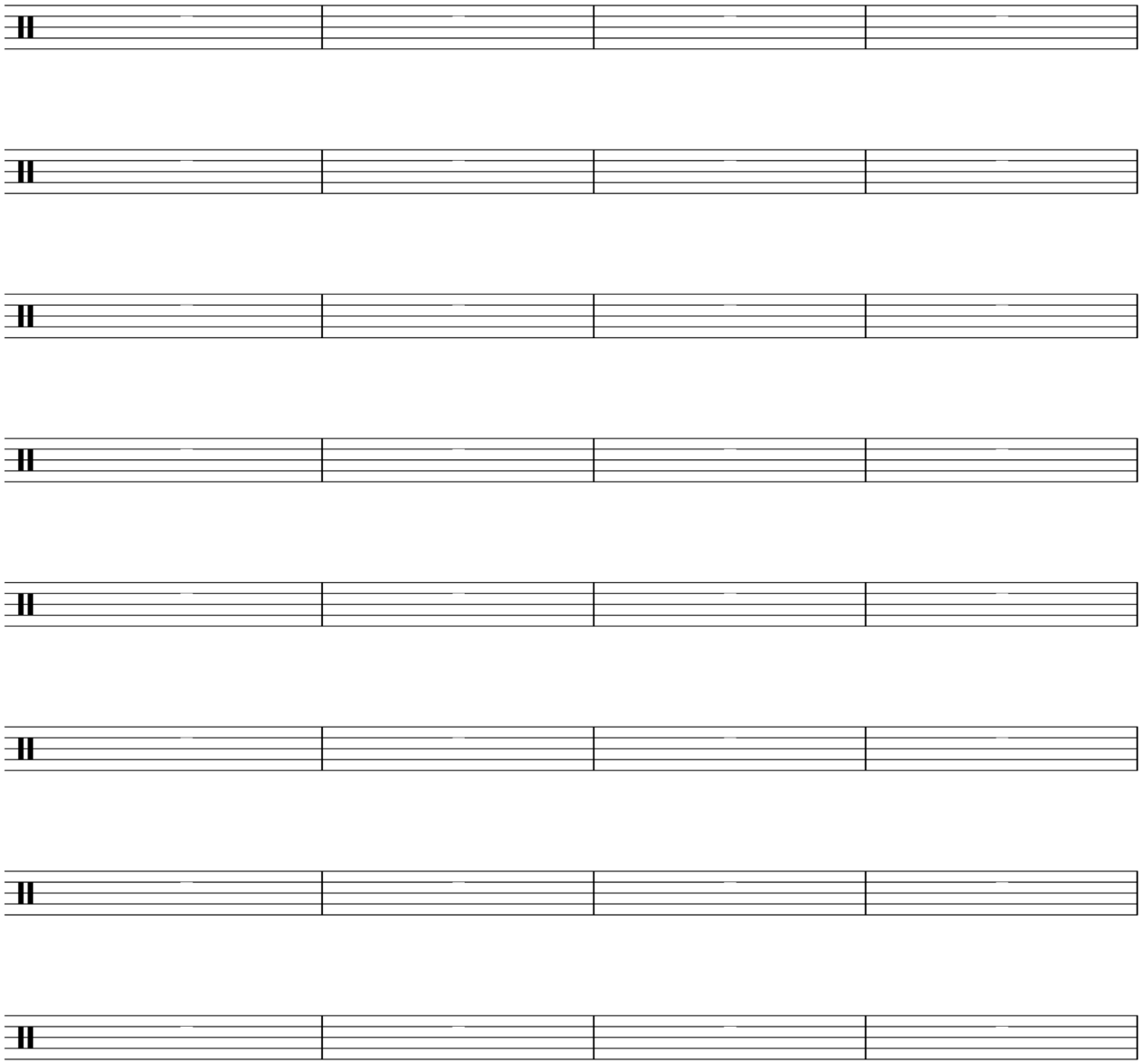
Improvise and play the rhythm from one line on the same surface or different surfaces. 1 measure, 2 measures, and 4 measures long



Open improvise unmetered and for 4 and 8 measures
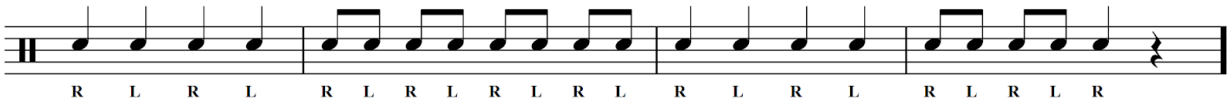


Compose your own etudes, solos, grooves and overarching rhythms for improvisation with quarter notes and quarter rests
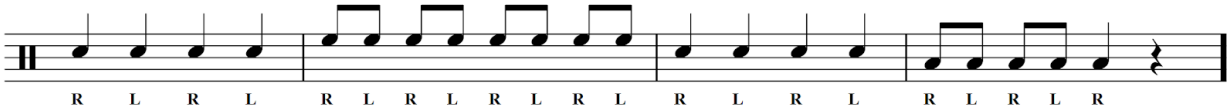


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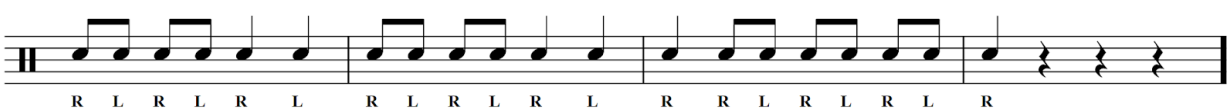
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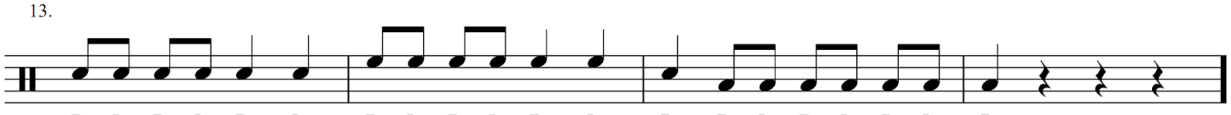


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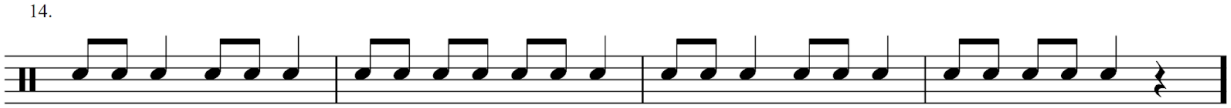


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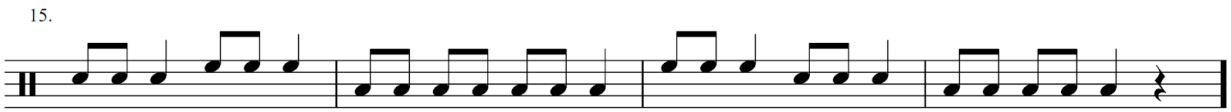


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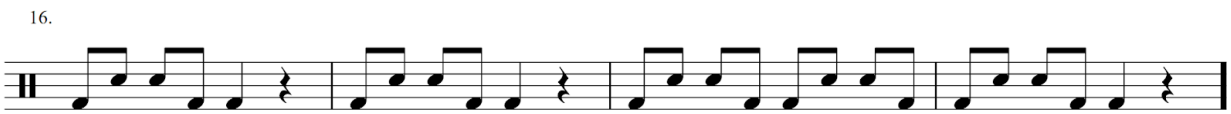


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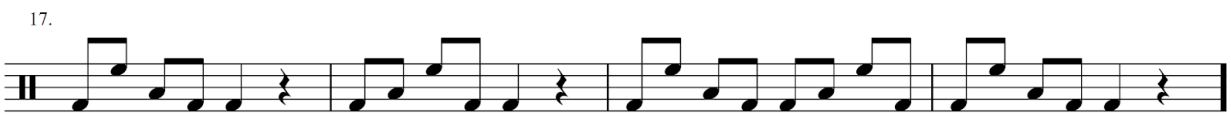


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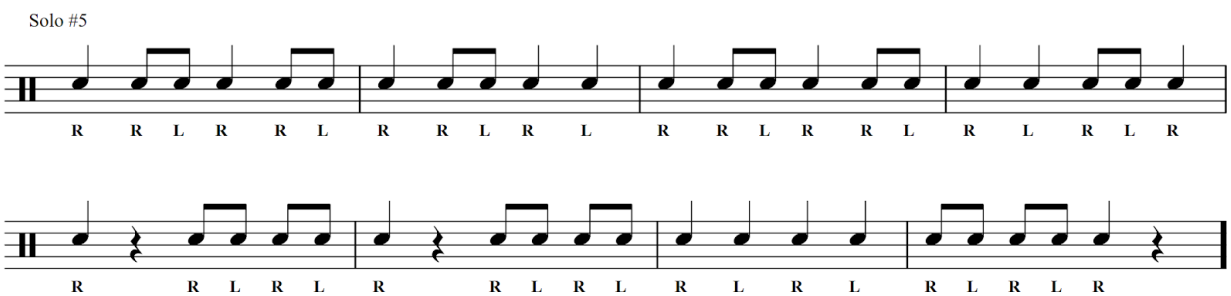


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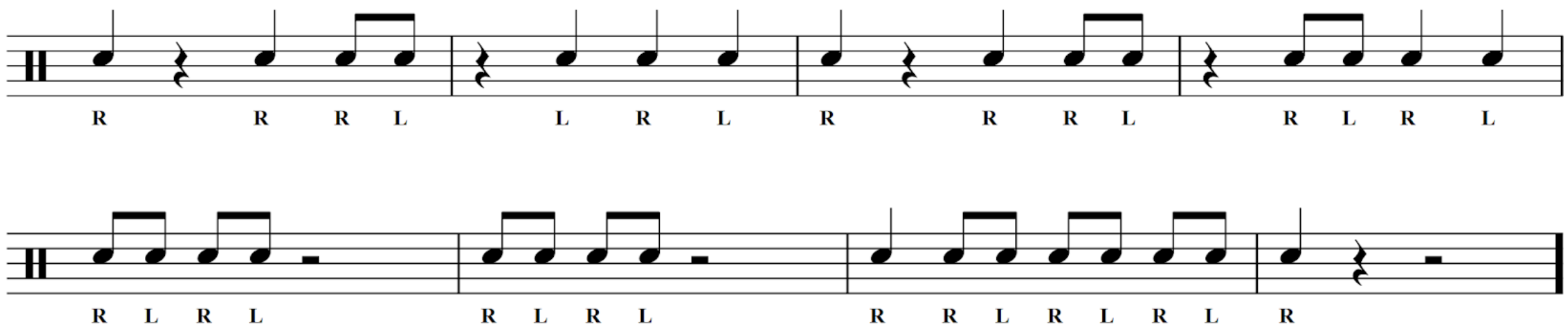
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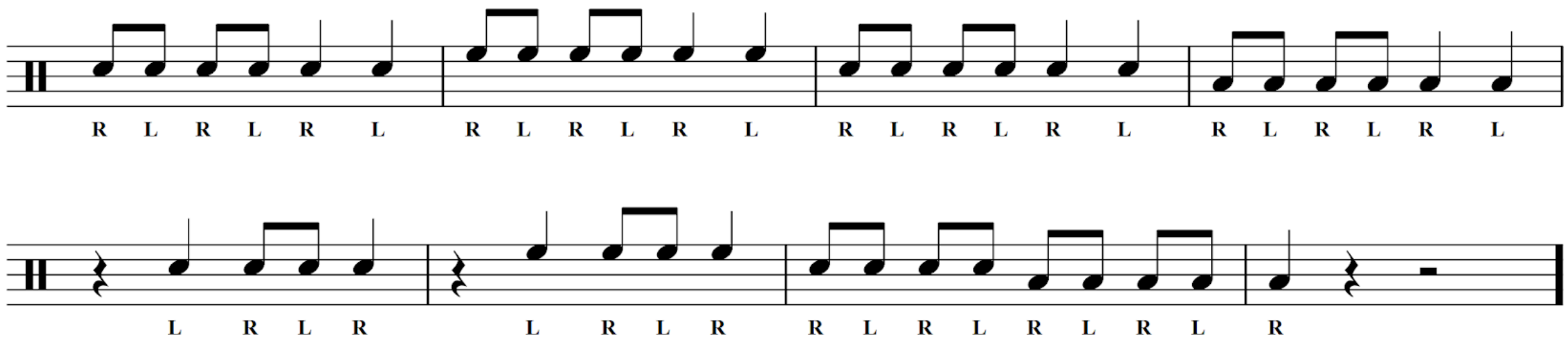


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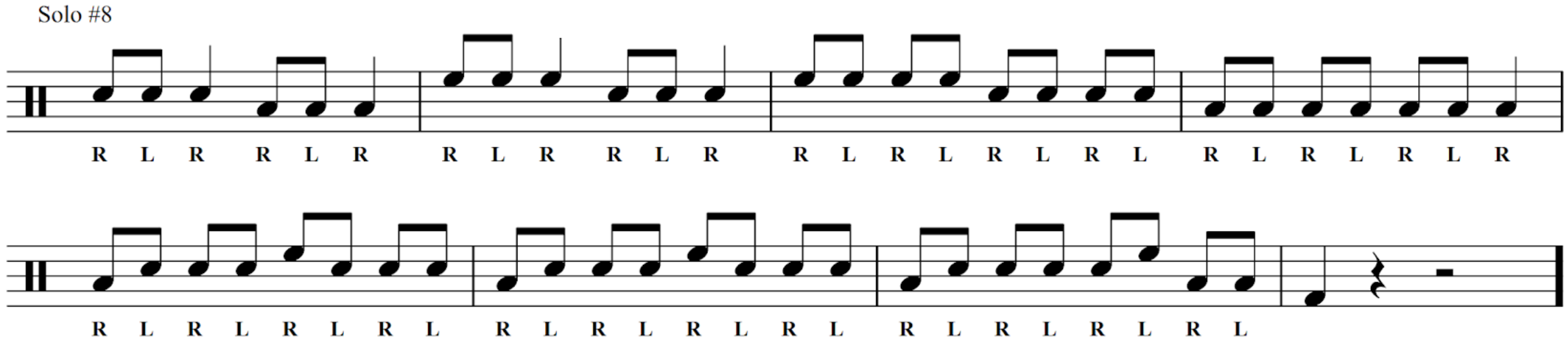


Solo #6



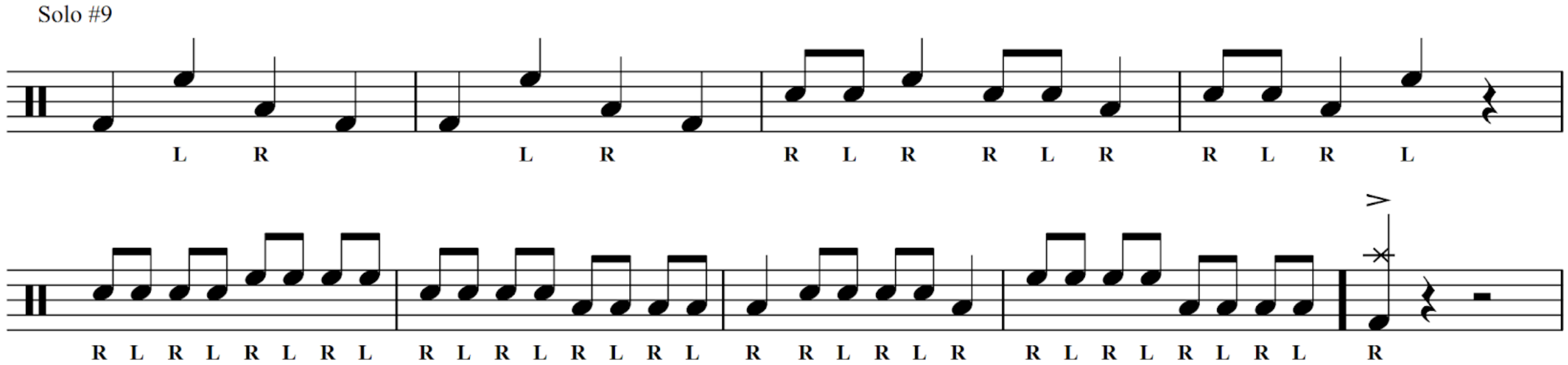
Solo #7



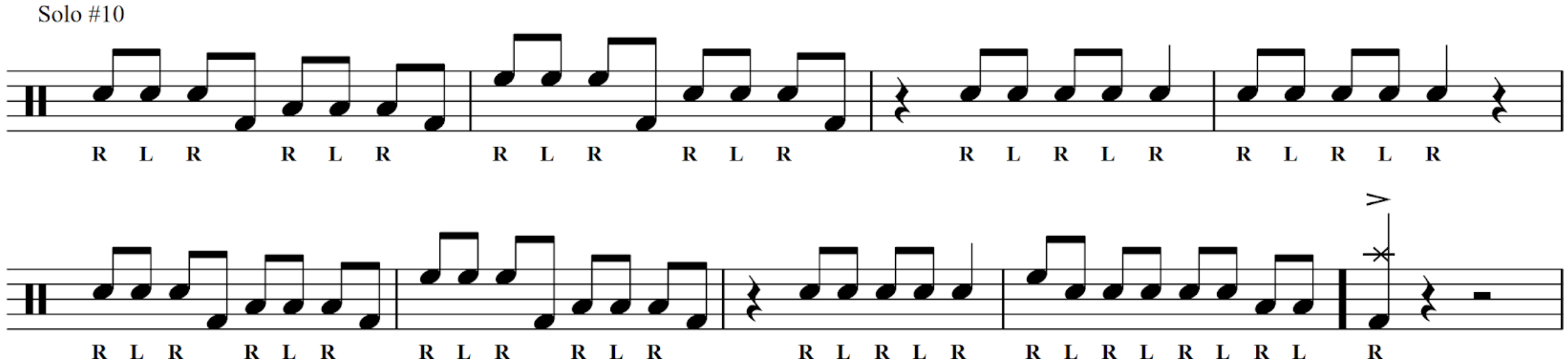
Solo #8



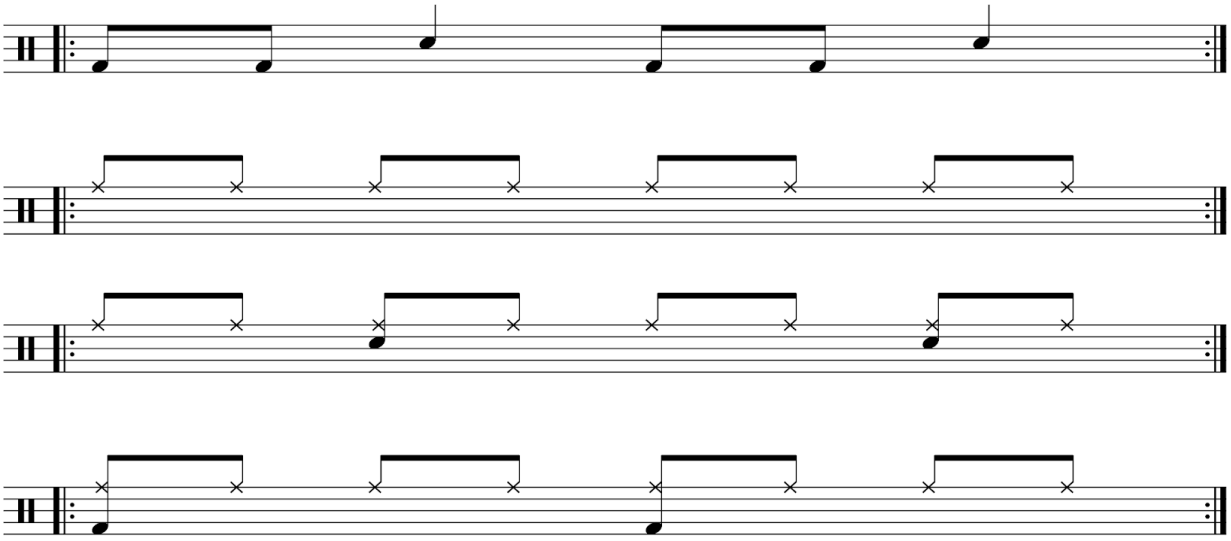
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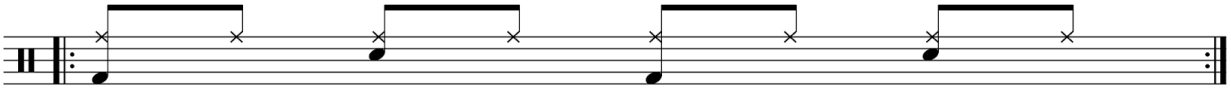


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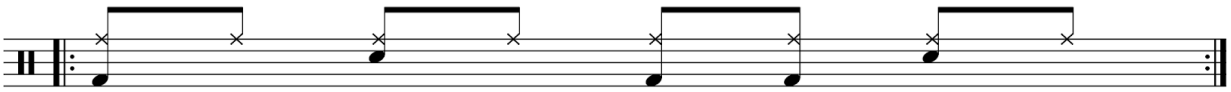


We Will Rock You - Queen
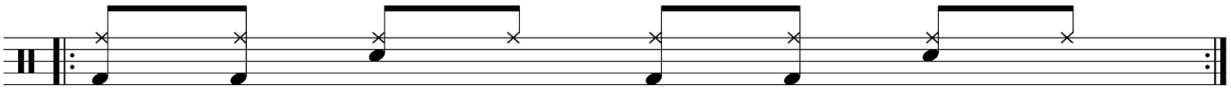


Billie Jean - Michael Jackson, Island In The Sun - Weezer, Find A Way - A Tribe Called Quest, Dreams - Fleetwood Mac
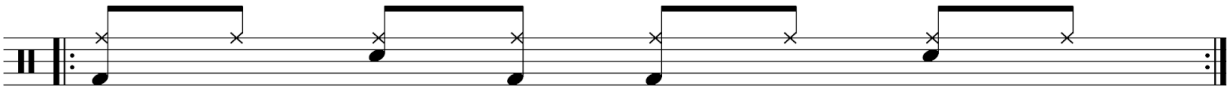


Thank You - Sly & The Family Stone



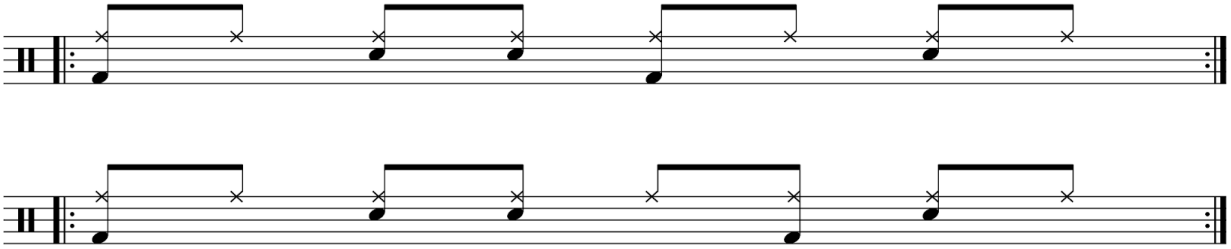
Beverly Hills - Weezer



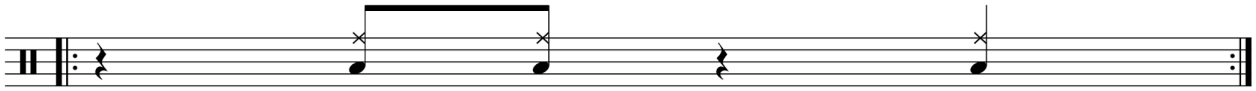
End Of Beginning - Djo



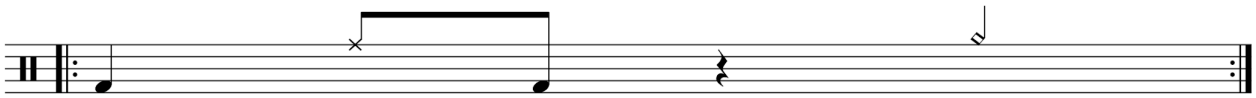
Please Mister Postman - Beatles or Twist and Shout - Beatles



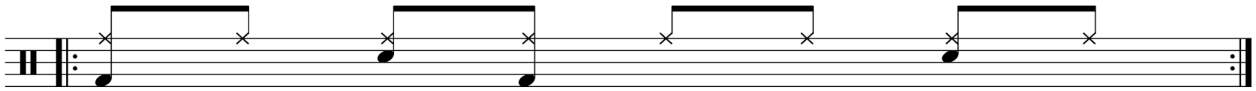
Dog Days Are Over - Florence And The Machine



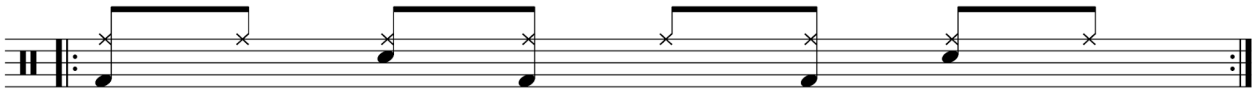
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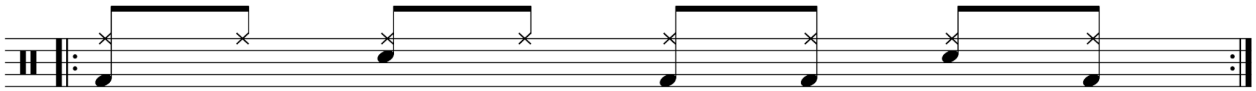


Baby It's You - Beatles
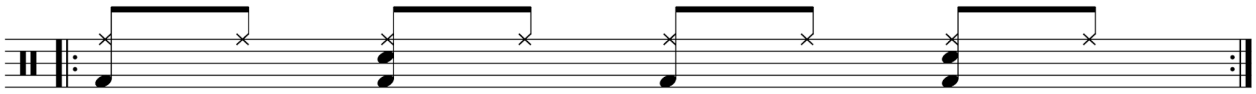


Say It Ain't So - Weezer or She Caught The Katy - Taj Mahal
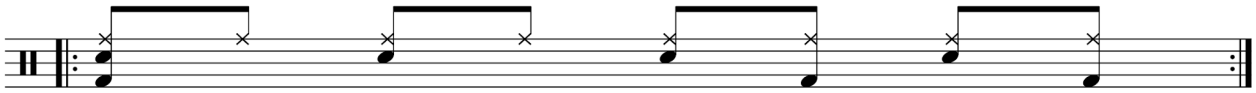


My Girl - The Temptations or Sittin On The Dock Of The Bay - Otis Redding
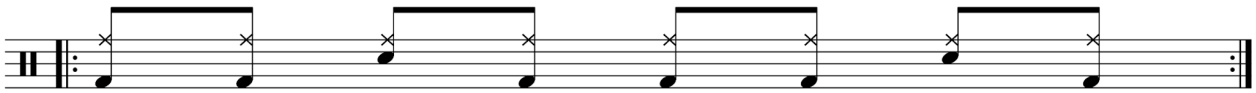


Stayin Alive - Bee Gees, Old Time Rock & Roll - Bob Seger, or Sharp Dressed Man - ZZ Top
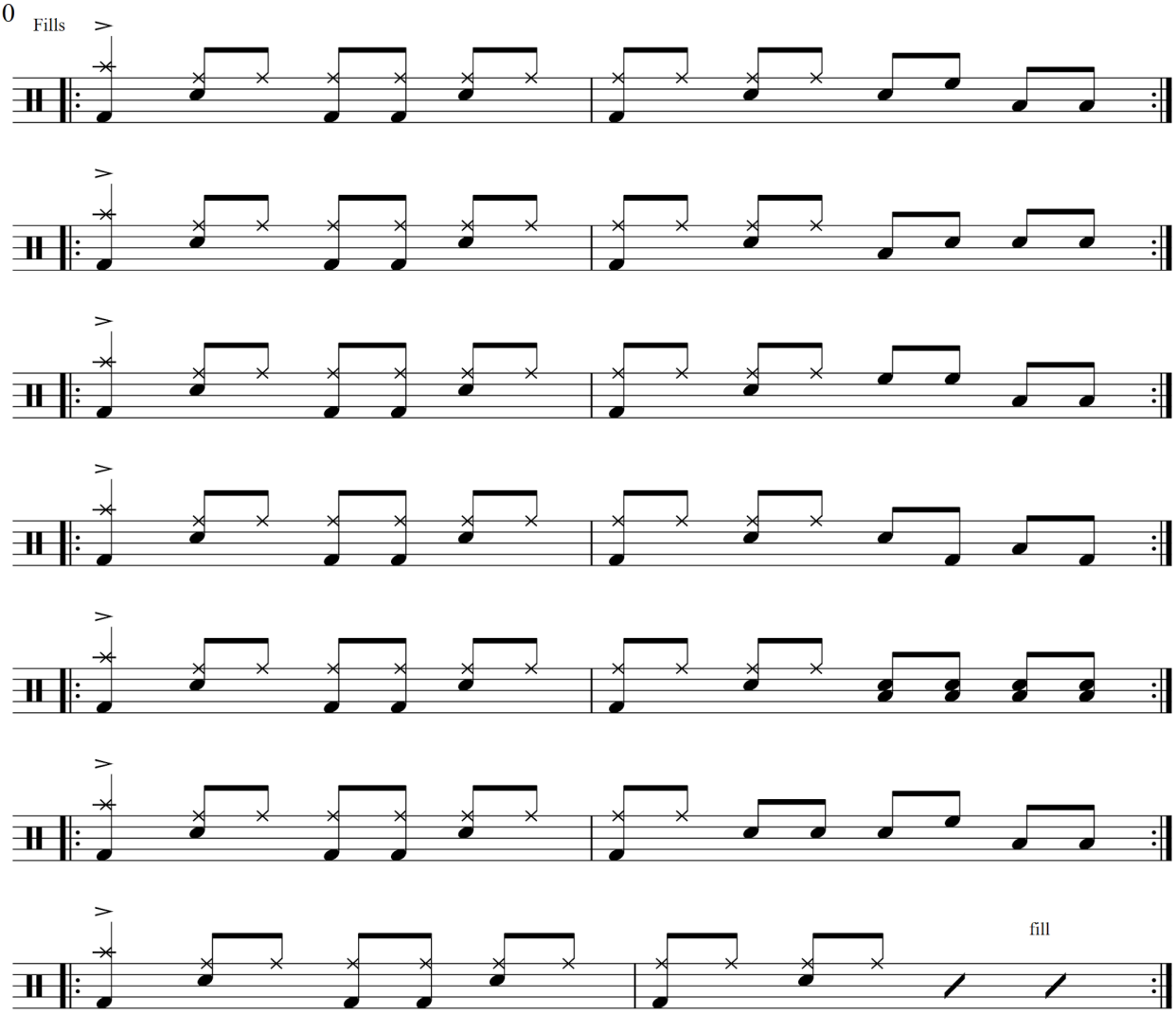


Satisfaction - The Rolling Stones
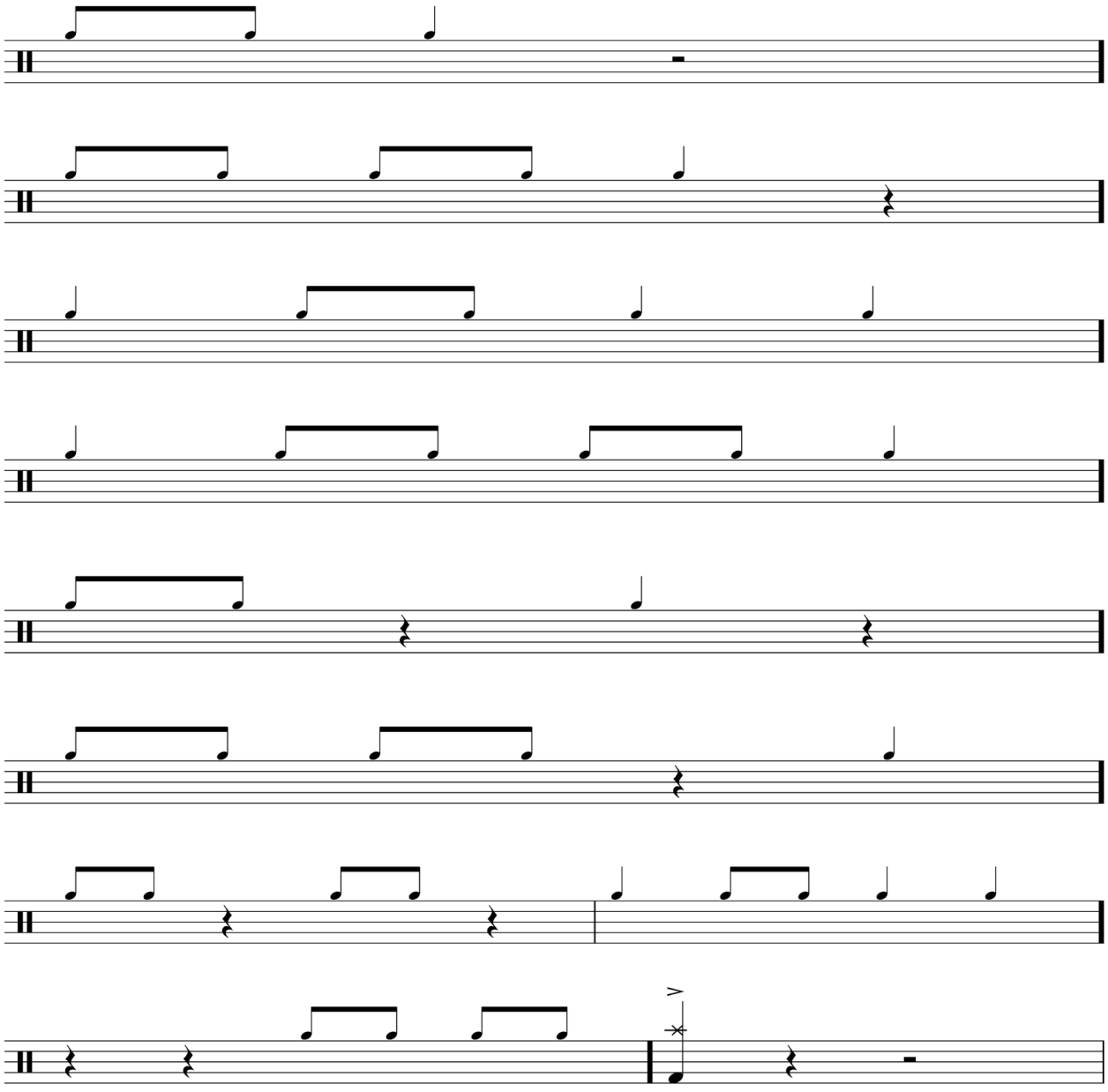


When You Were Young - The Killers



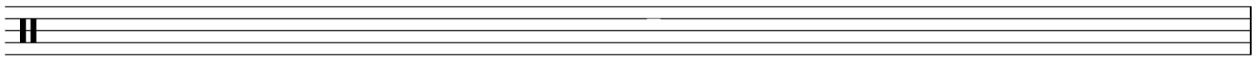
Fills



Improvise and play the rhythm from one line on the same surface or different surfaces. 1 measure, 2 measures, and 4 measures long

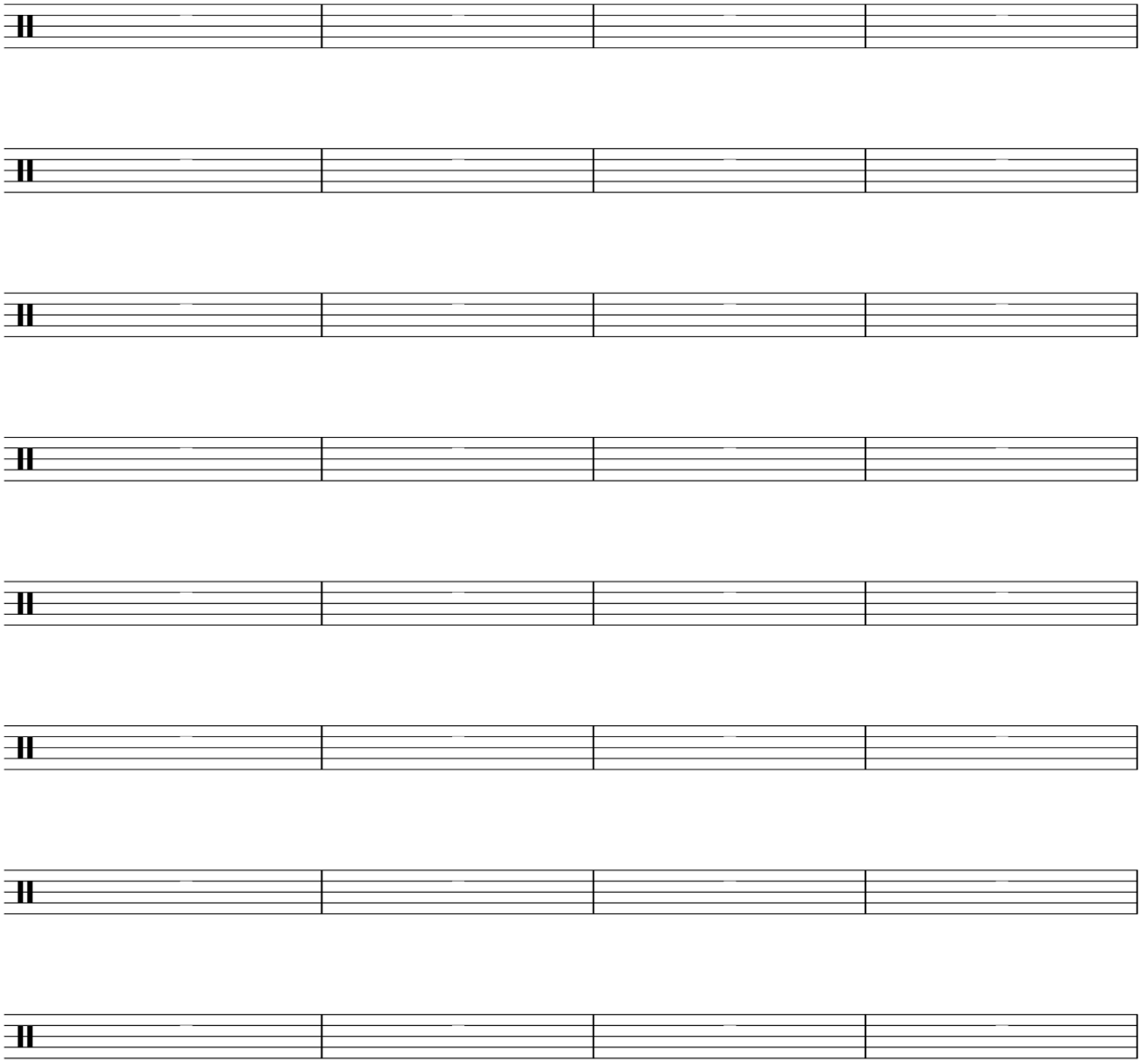


Open improvise unmetered and for 4 and 8 measures
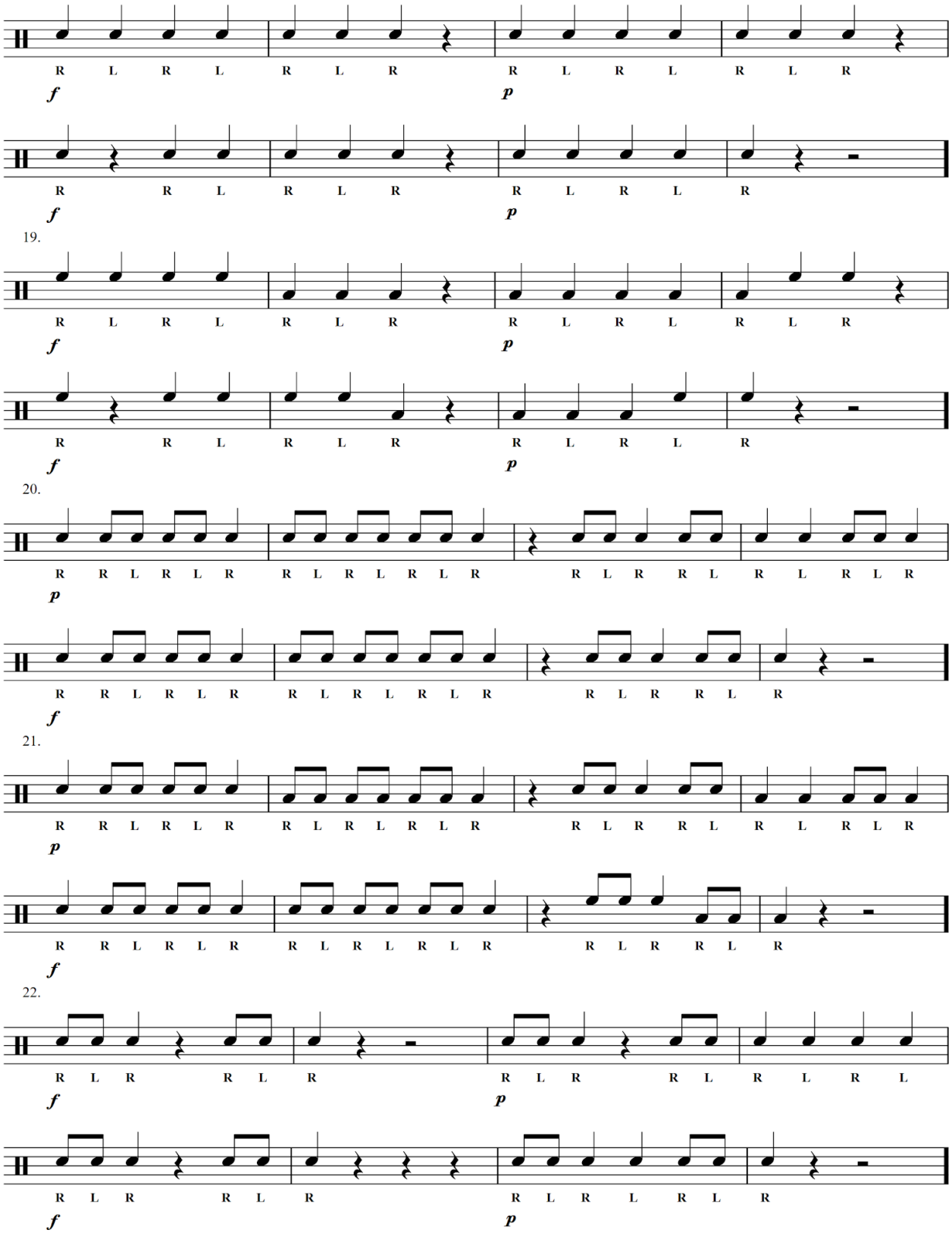


12

Compose your own etudes, solos, grooves, fills, and overarching rhythms for improvisation with the addition of eighth notes



Lesson 3 – Piano and Forte

18.


R L R L R L R R L R L R L R
f p
R R L R L R R L R L R
f p

19.

R L R L R L R R L R L R L R
f p
R R L R L R R L R L R
f p

20.

R R L R L R R L R L R L R R L R R L R L R L R
p
R R L R L R R L R L R L R R L R R L R L R L R
f

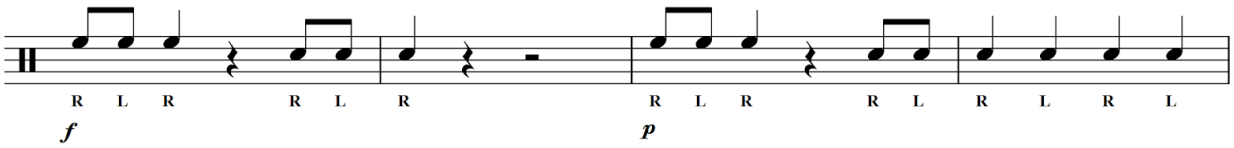
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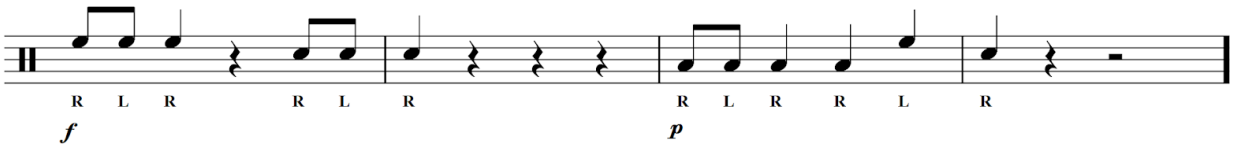
R R L R L R R L R L R L R R L R R L R L R L R
p
R R L R L R R L R L R L R R L R R L R L R L R
f

22.
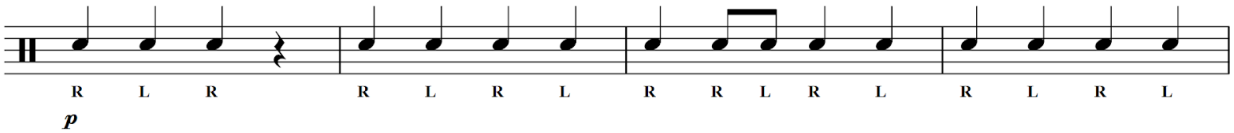
R L R R L R R L R R L R L R L
f p
R L R R L R R L R L R L R
f p
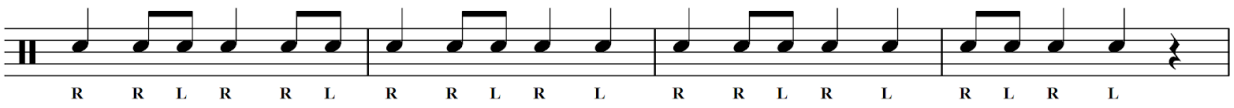
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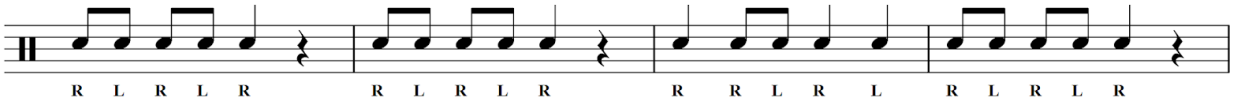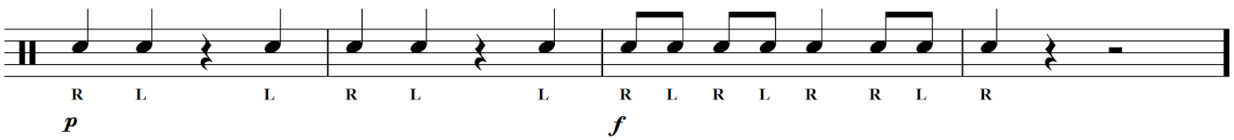




Solo #11
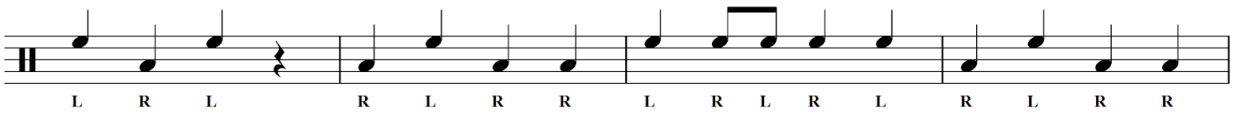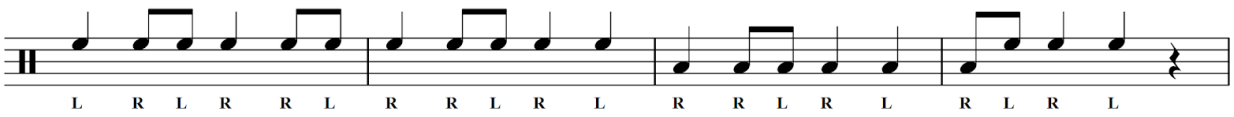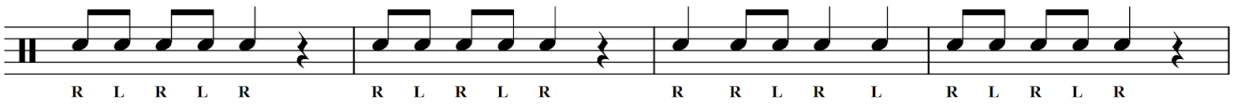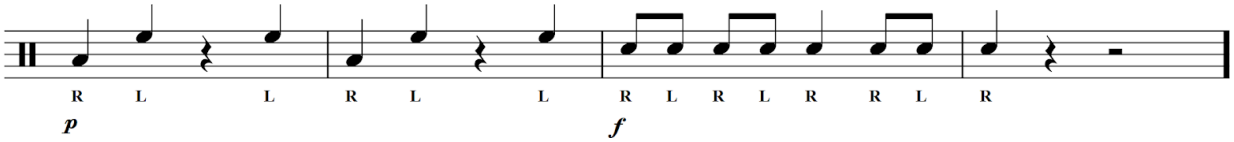








Solo #12
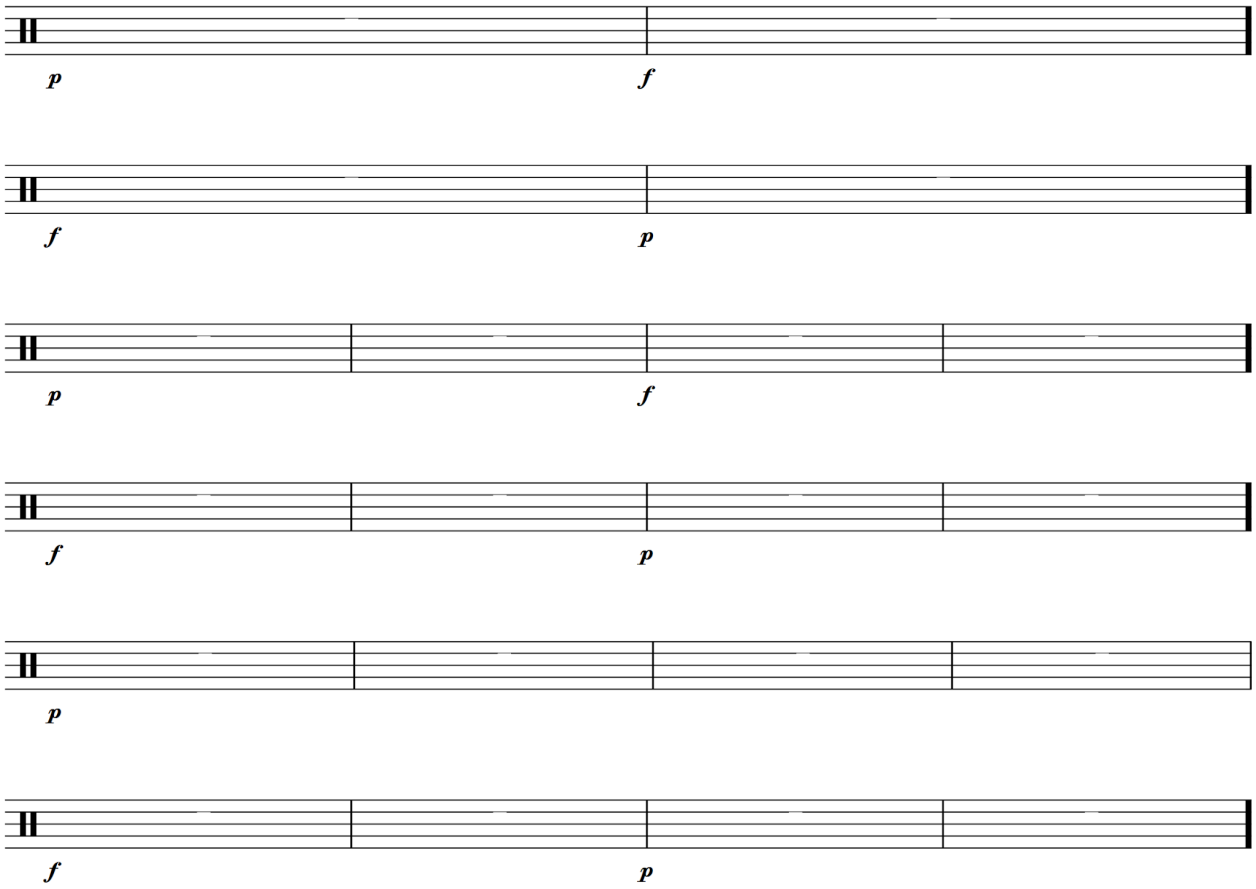




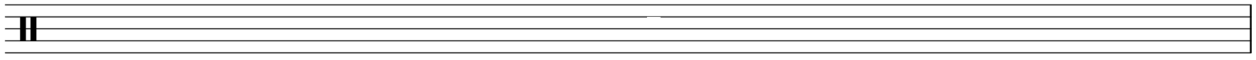




Improvise and play any rhythm with these dynamics

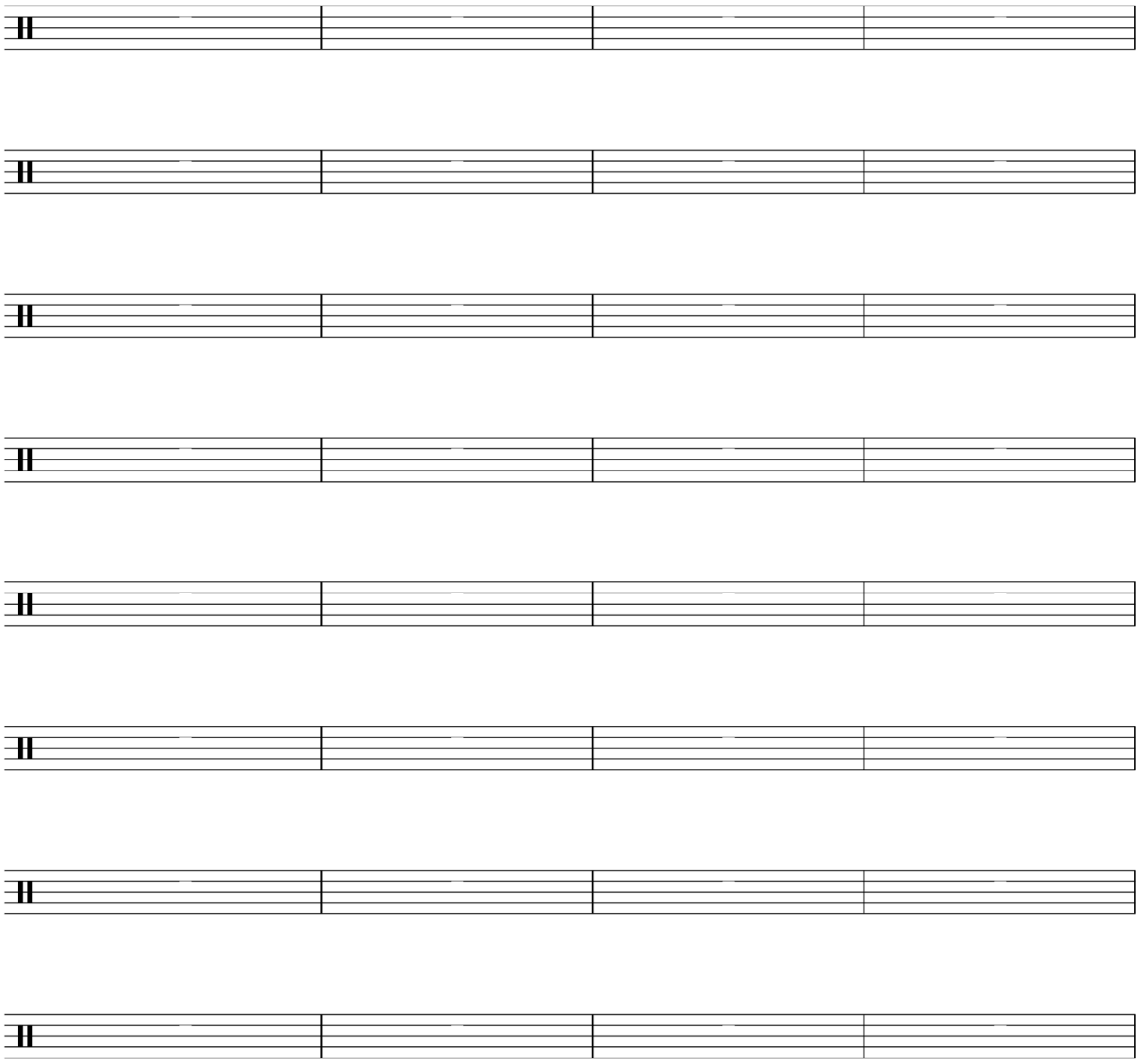


Open improvise unmetered and for 4, 8 and 16 measures
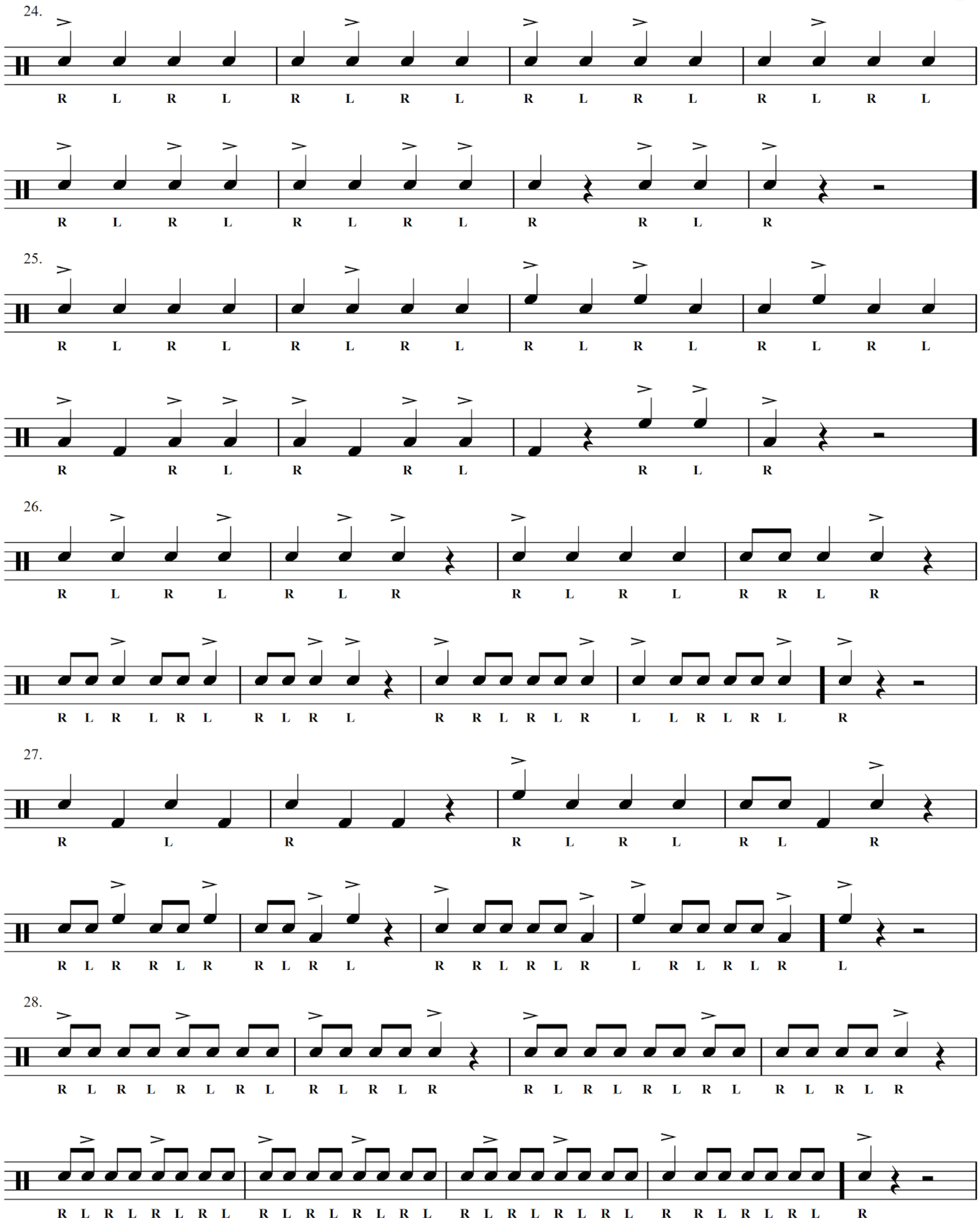


16

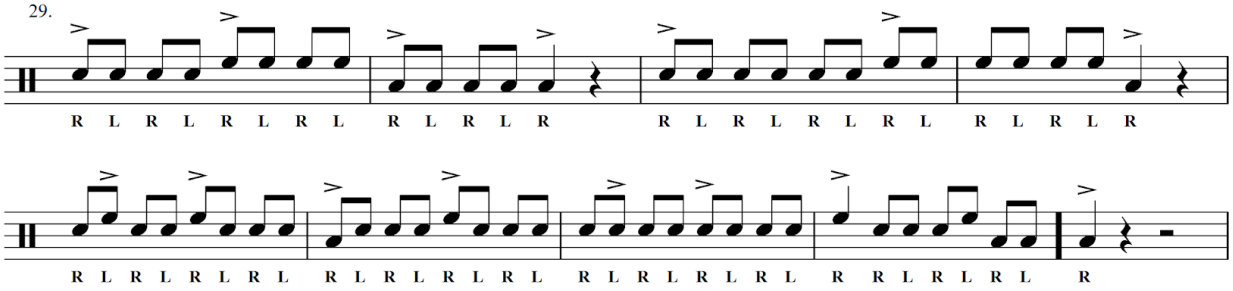
Compose your own etudes, solos, grooves, fills, and overarching rhythms for improvisation with the addition of piano and forte dynamics
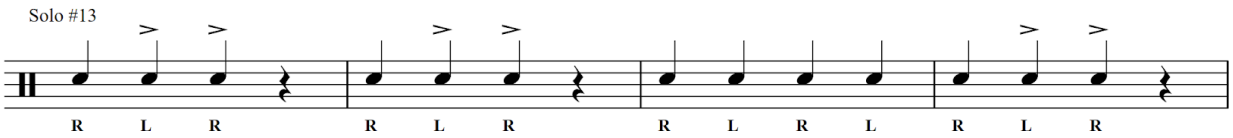


Lesson 4 - Accents

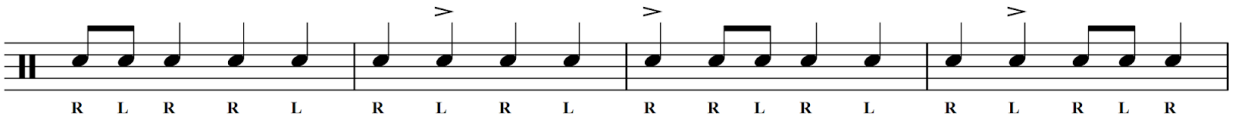

24.
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
R L R L R L R L R R L R
25.
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
R R L R R L R L R
26.
R L R L R L R R L R L R R L R
R L R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R
27.
R L R R L R L R L R
R L R R L R R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
28.
R L R L R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R

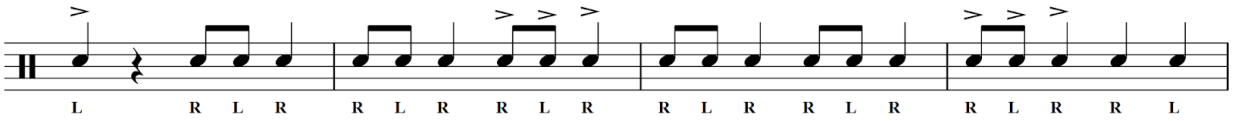
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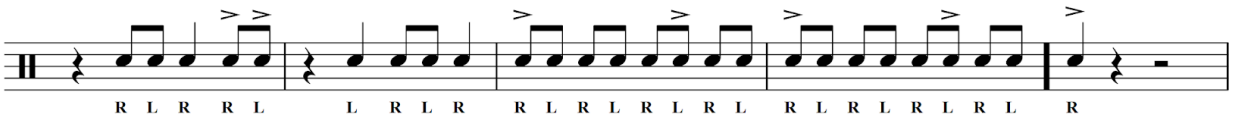


Solo #13
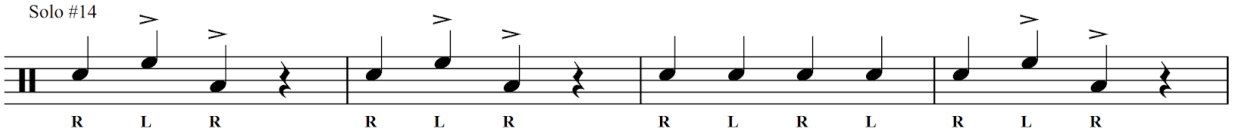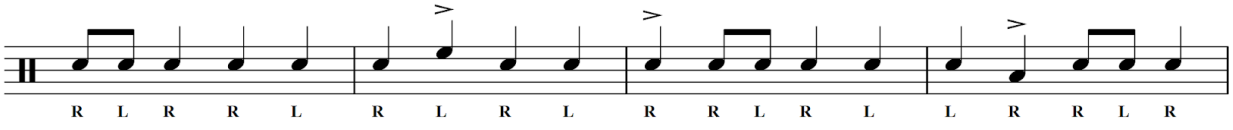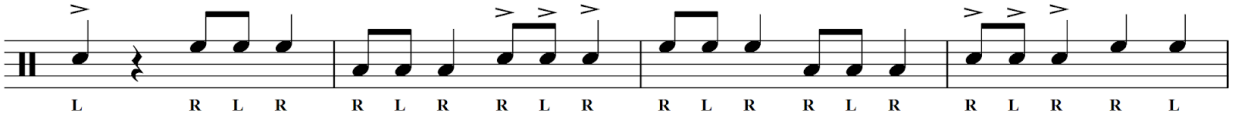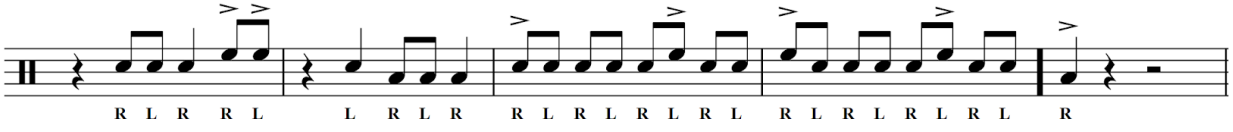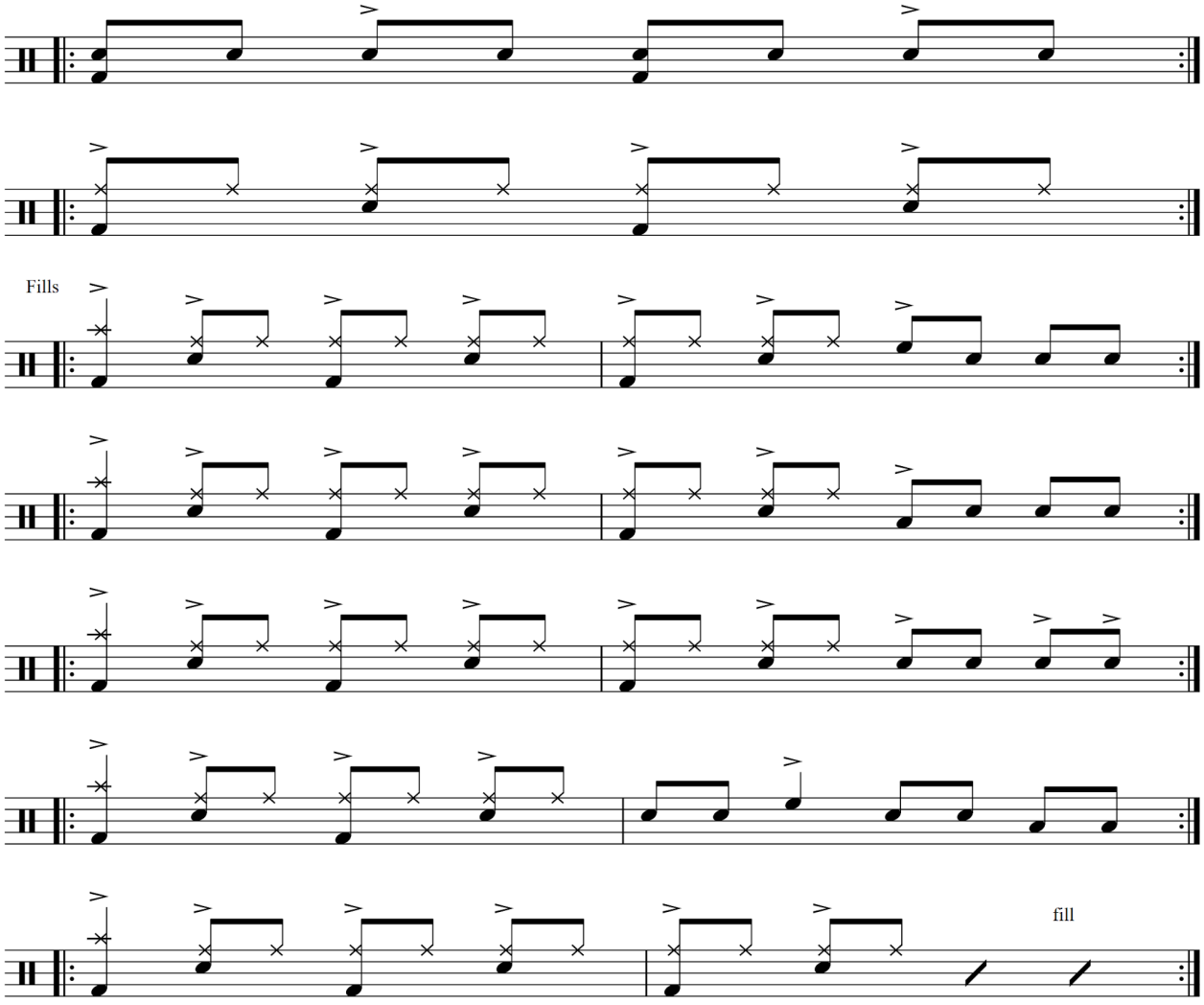








Solo #14



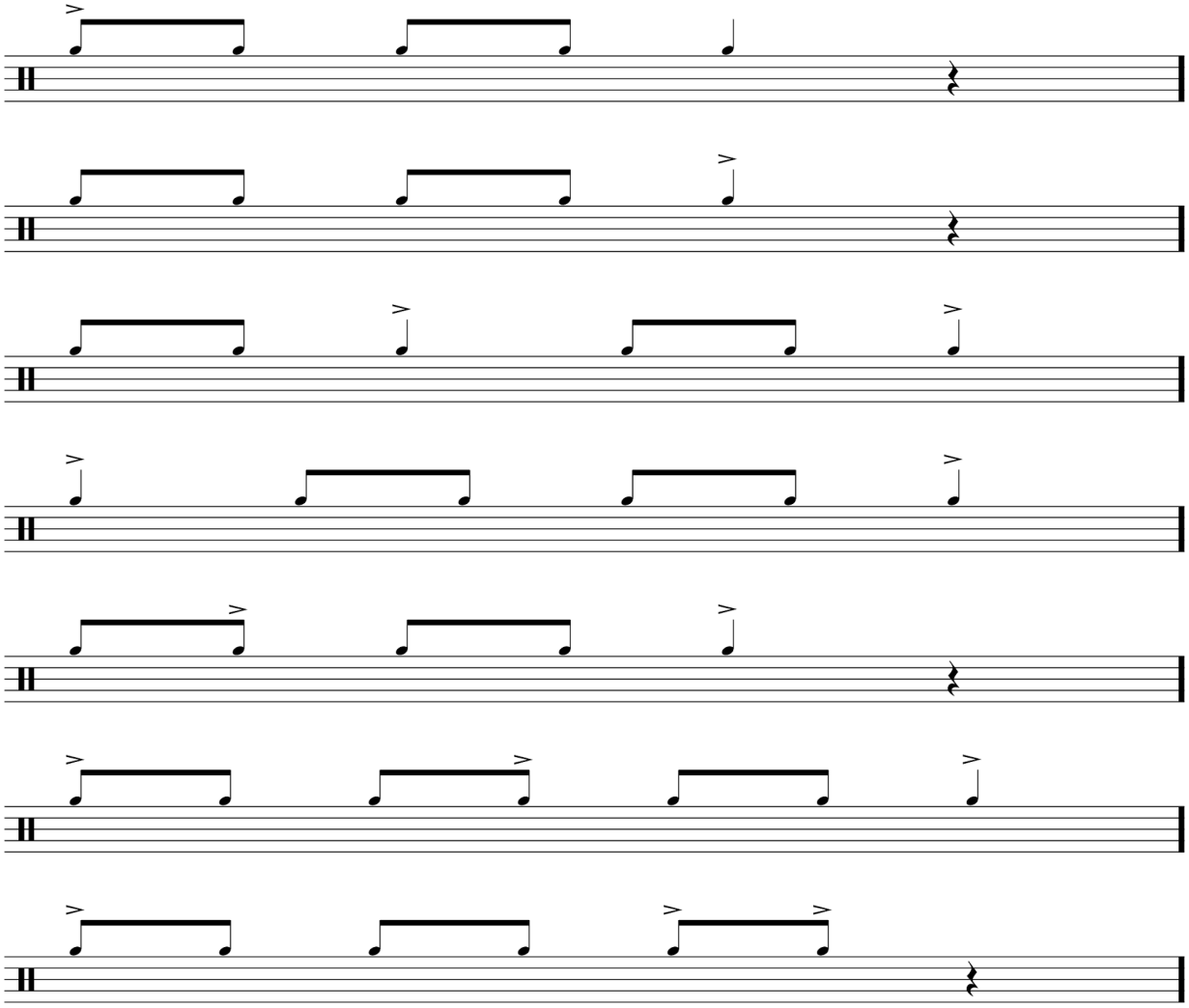




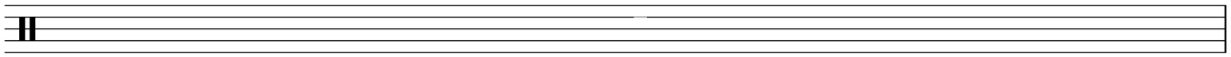



Fills
fill

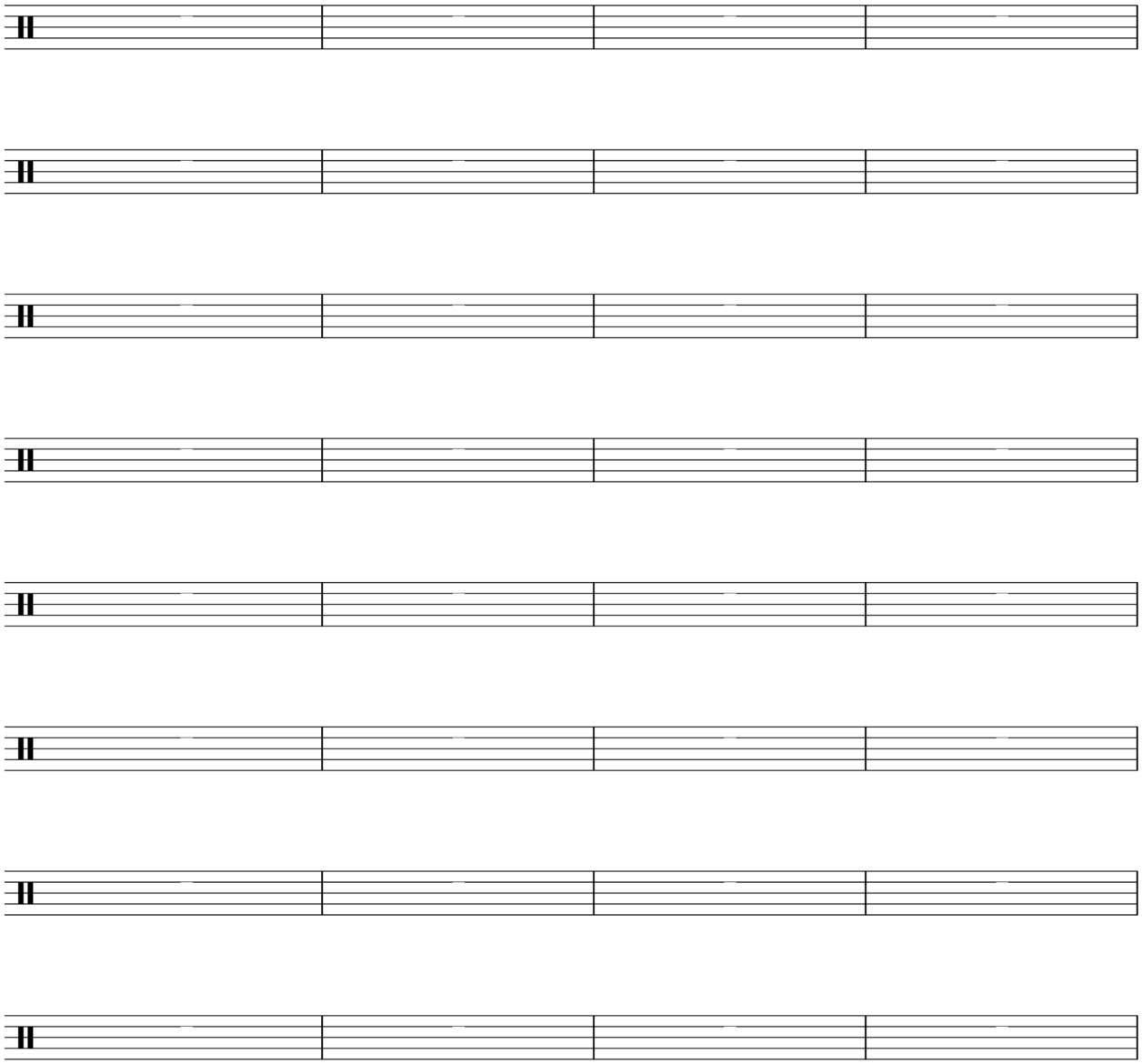
20 Improvise and play the rhythm from one line on the same surface or different surfaces. 1 measure, 2 measures, and 4 measures long



Open improvise unmetered and for 4, 8 and 16 measures
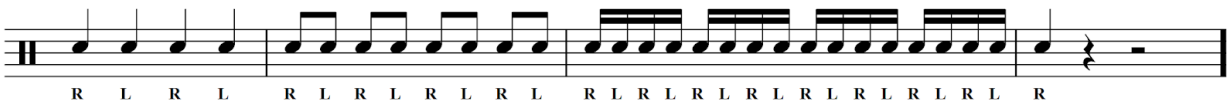


Compose your own etudes, solos, grooves, fills, and overarching rhythms for improvisation with the addition of accents
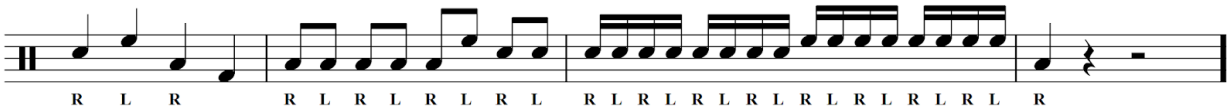


Lesson 5 – Sixteenth Notes
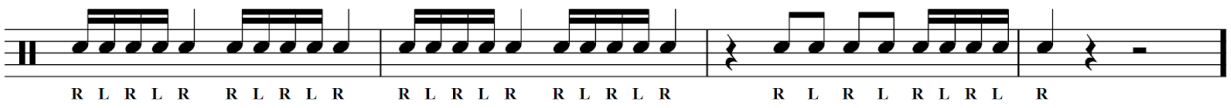
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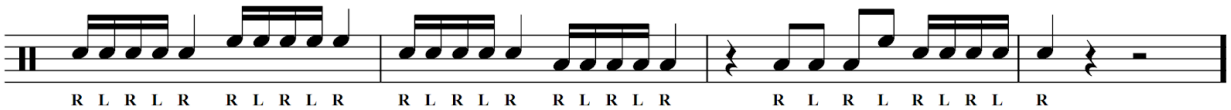


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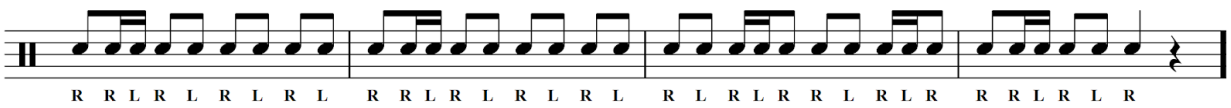


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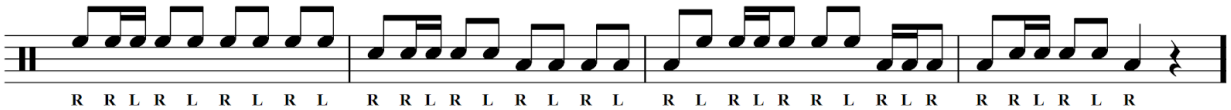


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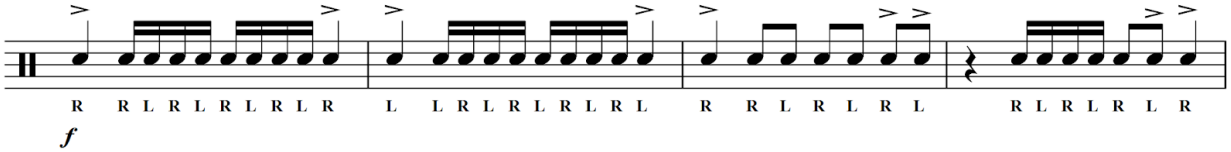


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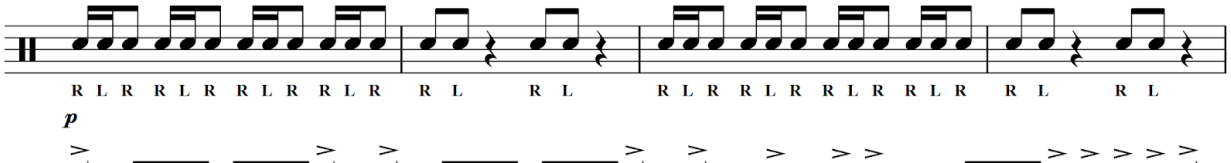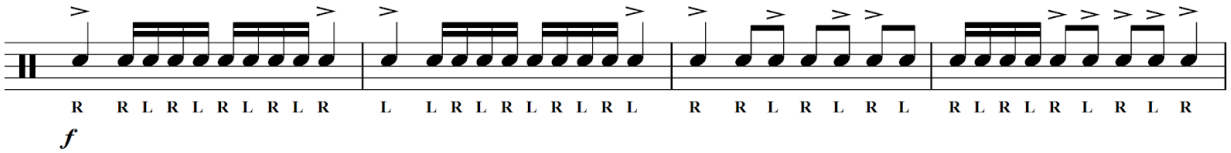


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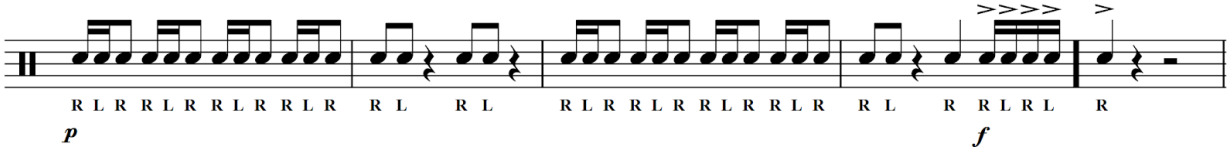


Solo #15

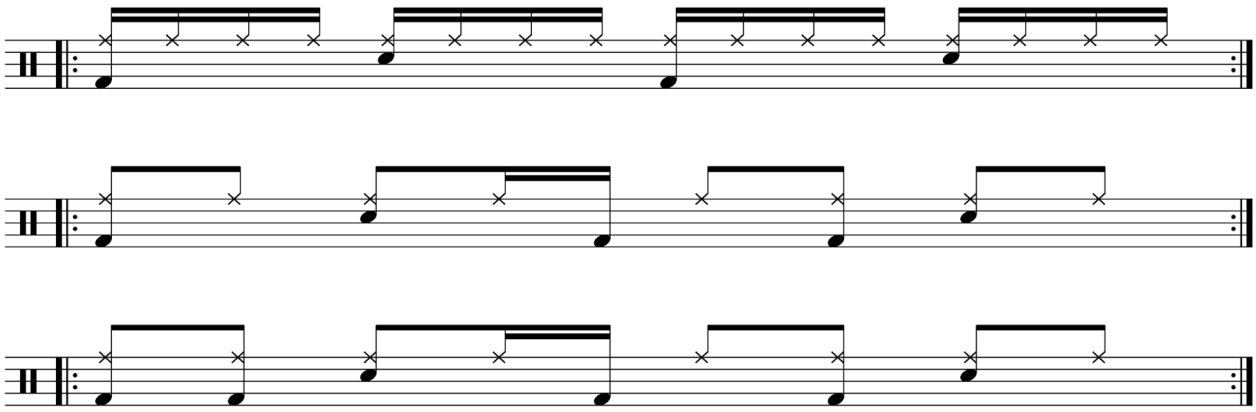




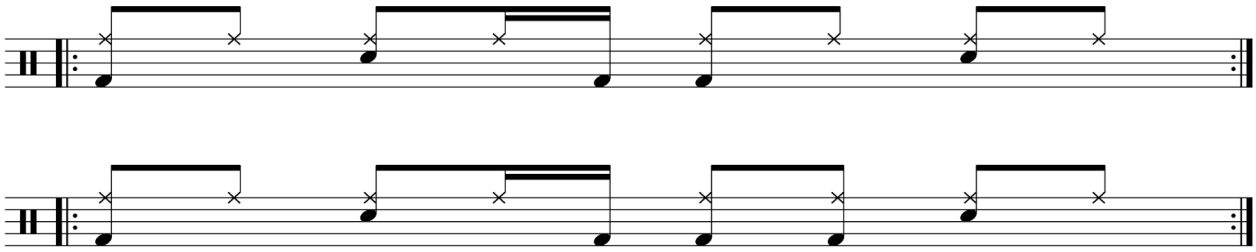




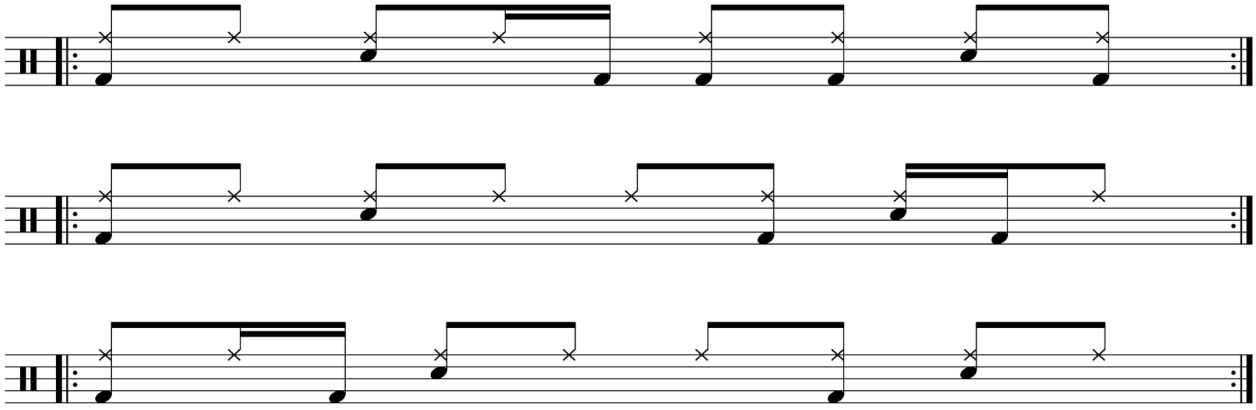
Super Rich Kids - Frank Ocean



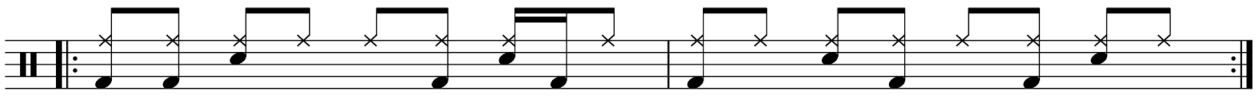
Give Up The Funk - Parliament
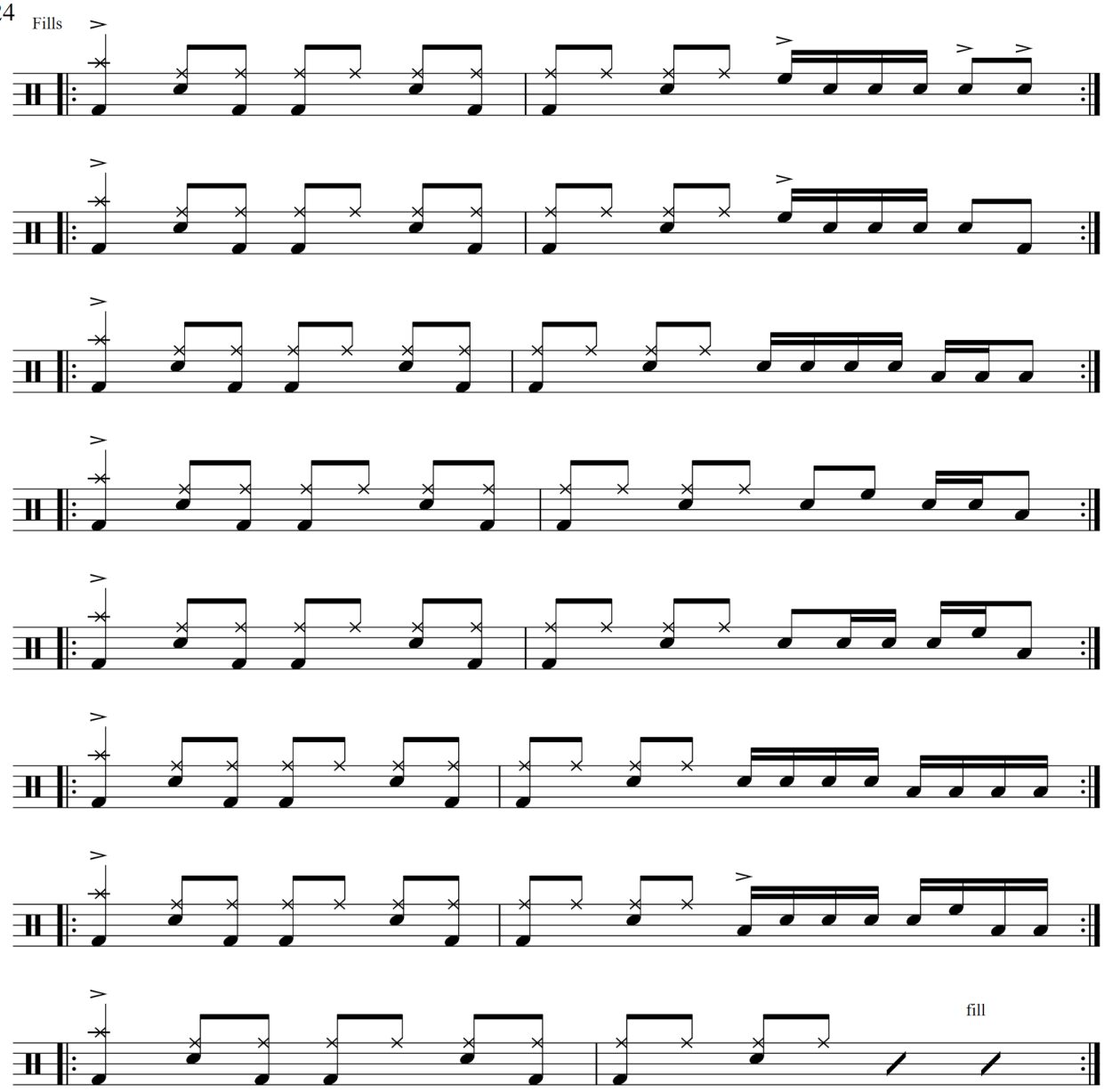


Signed Sealed Delivered - Stevie Wonder or Creep - Radiohead



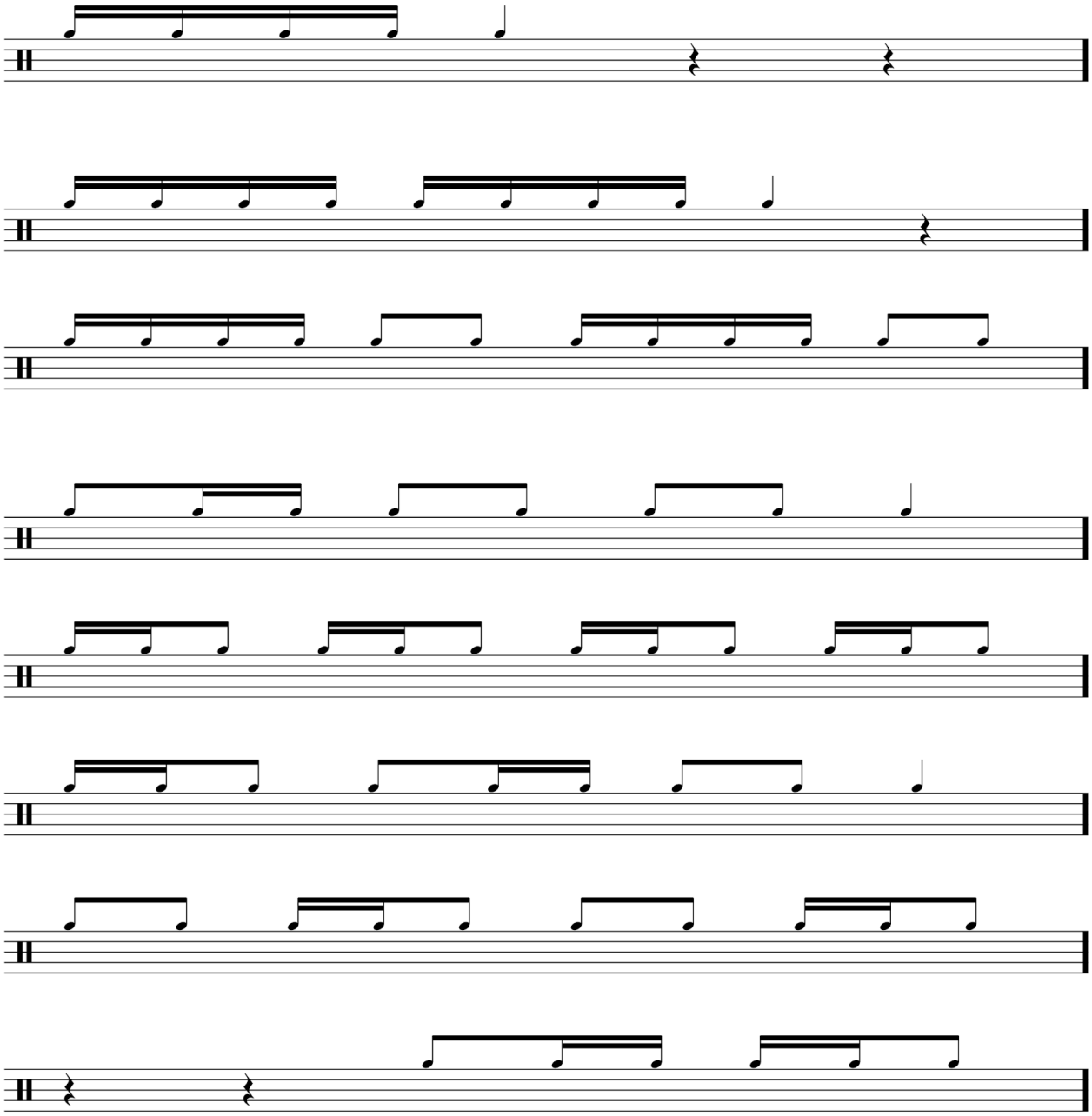
The 6th Sense - Common



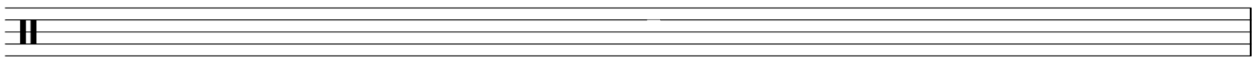
Fills



Improvise and play the rhythm from one line on the same surface or different surfaces. 1 measure, 2 measures, and 4 measures long

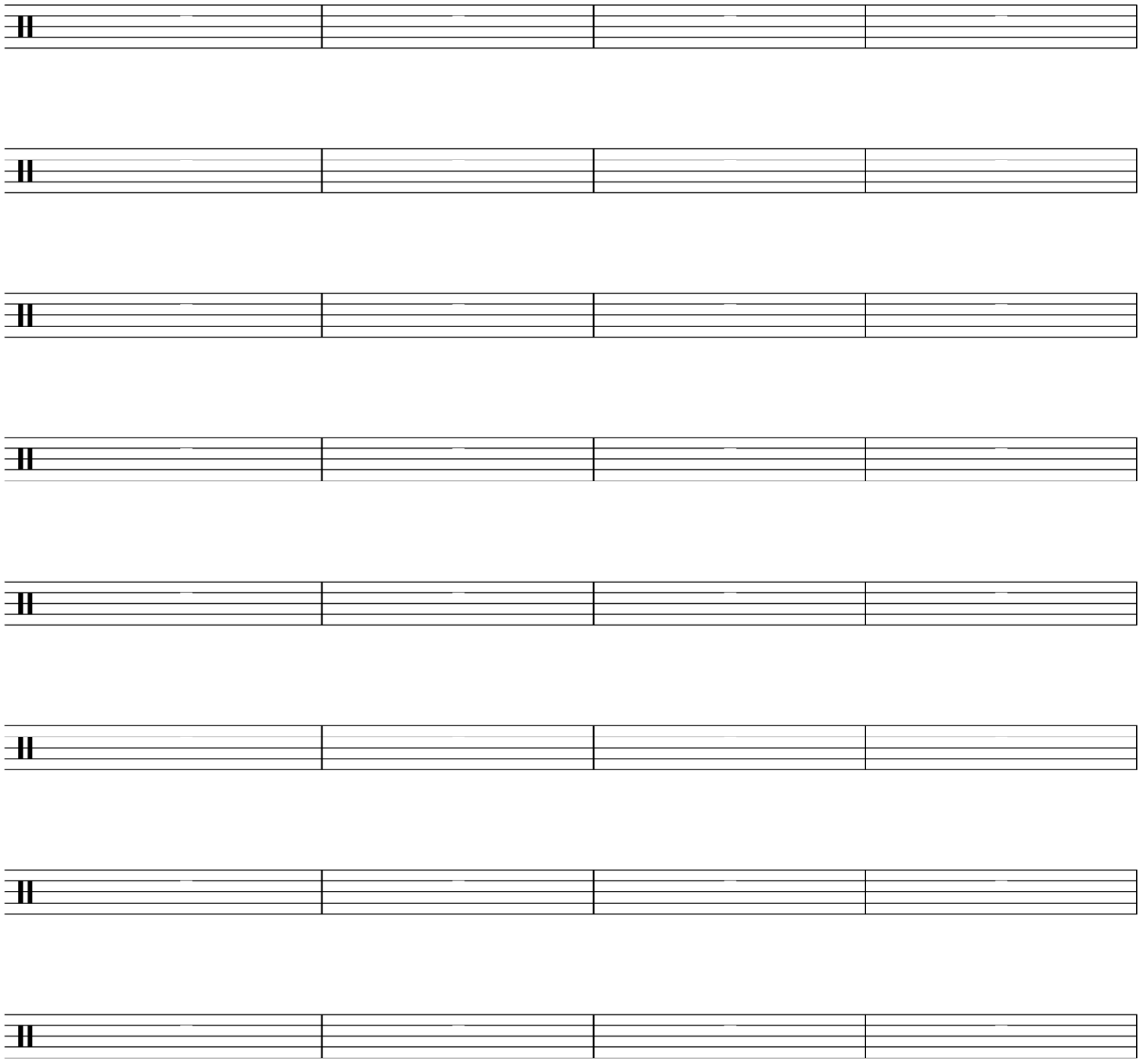


Open improvise unmetered and for 4, 8 and 16 measures
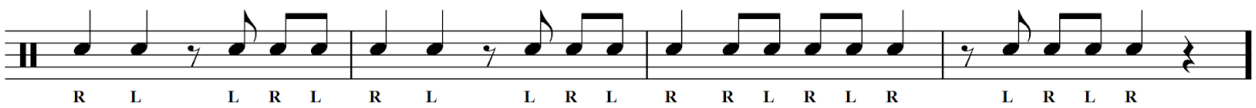


26

Compose your own etudes, solos, grooves, fills, and overarching rhythms for improvisation with the addition of sixteenth notes
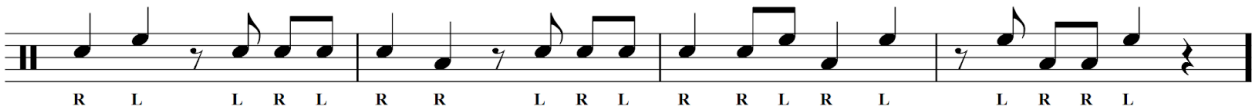


Lesson 6 – Eighth Rests
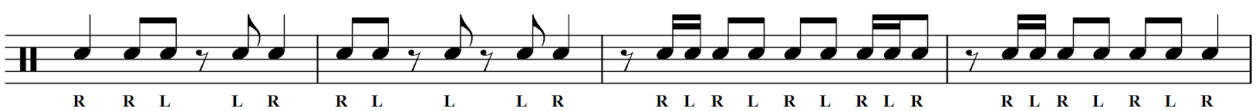
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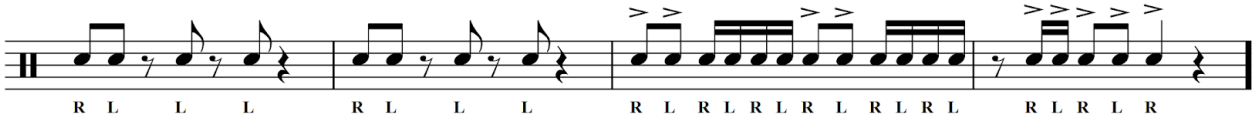


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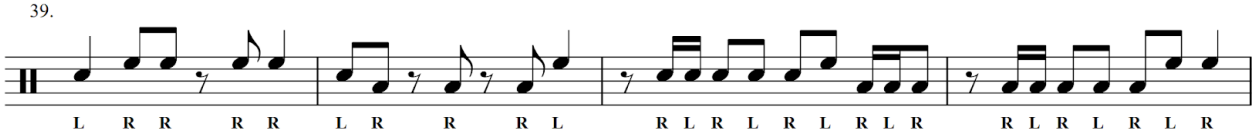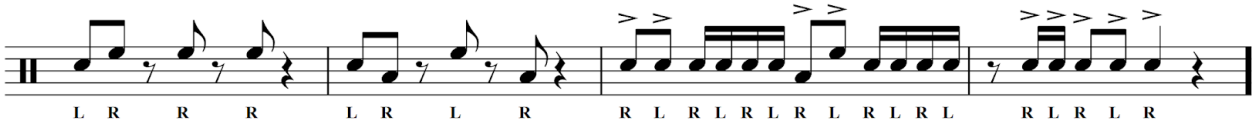


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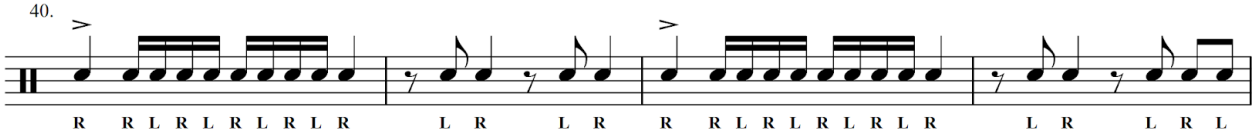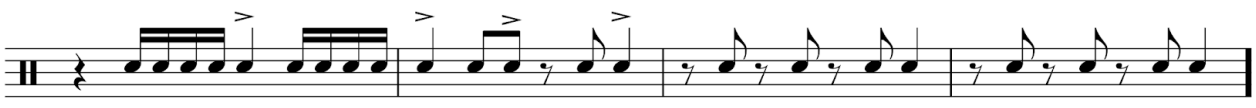




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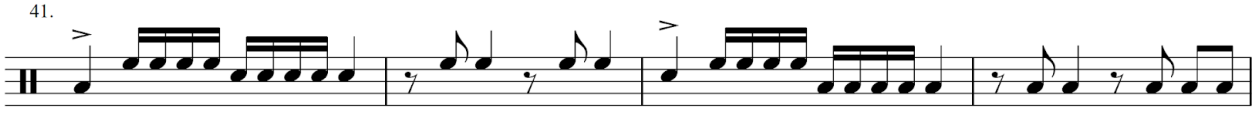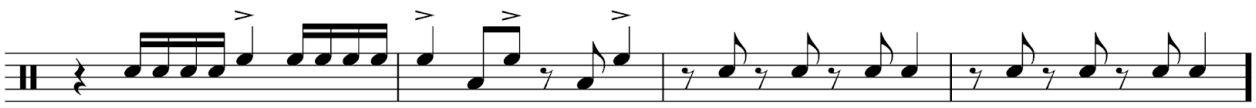




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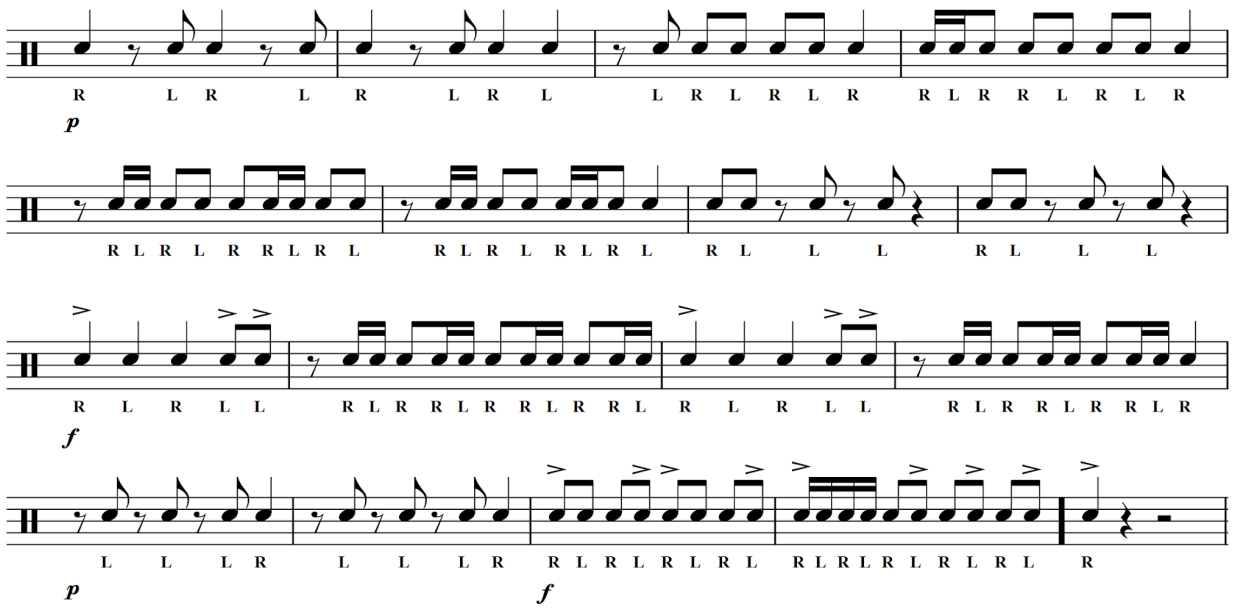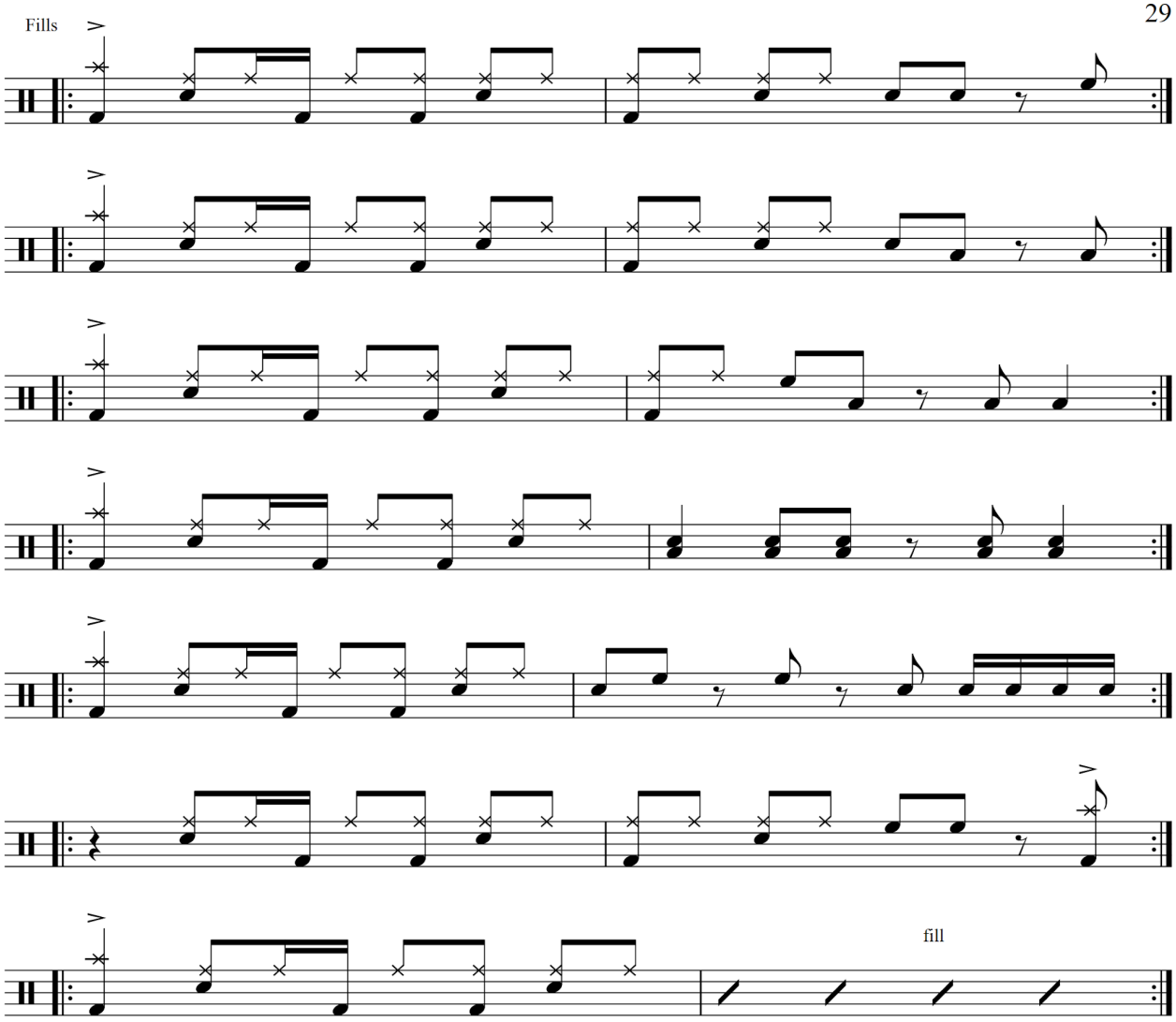




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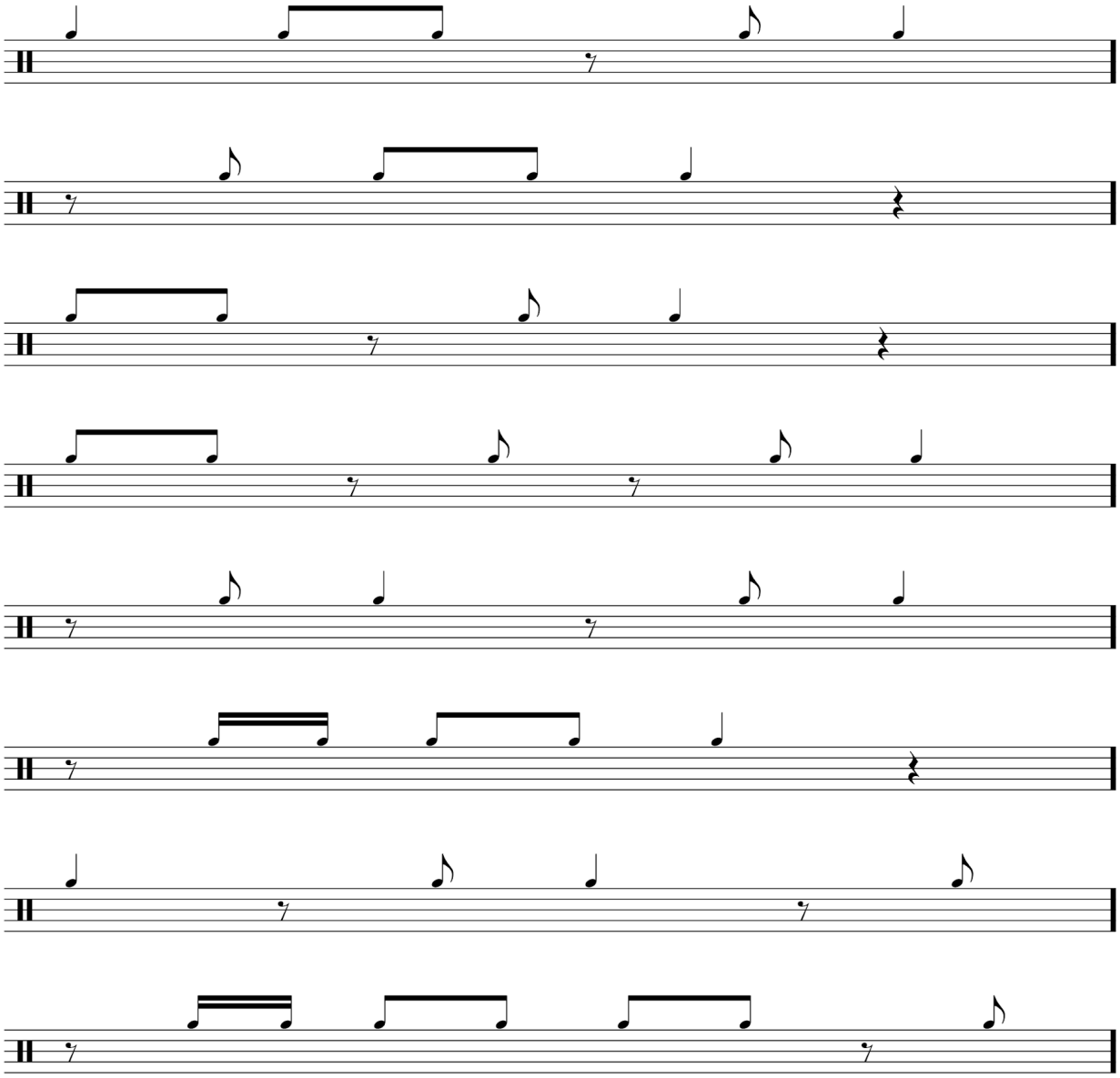




Solo #16

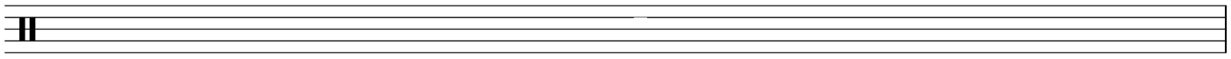

R L R L R L R L L R L R L R R L R R L R L R
p
R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
R L L L R L L L
f
R L R L L R L R R L R R L R R L R L L R L R R L R R L R
L L L R L L L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R
p
f


Fills
fill

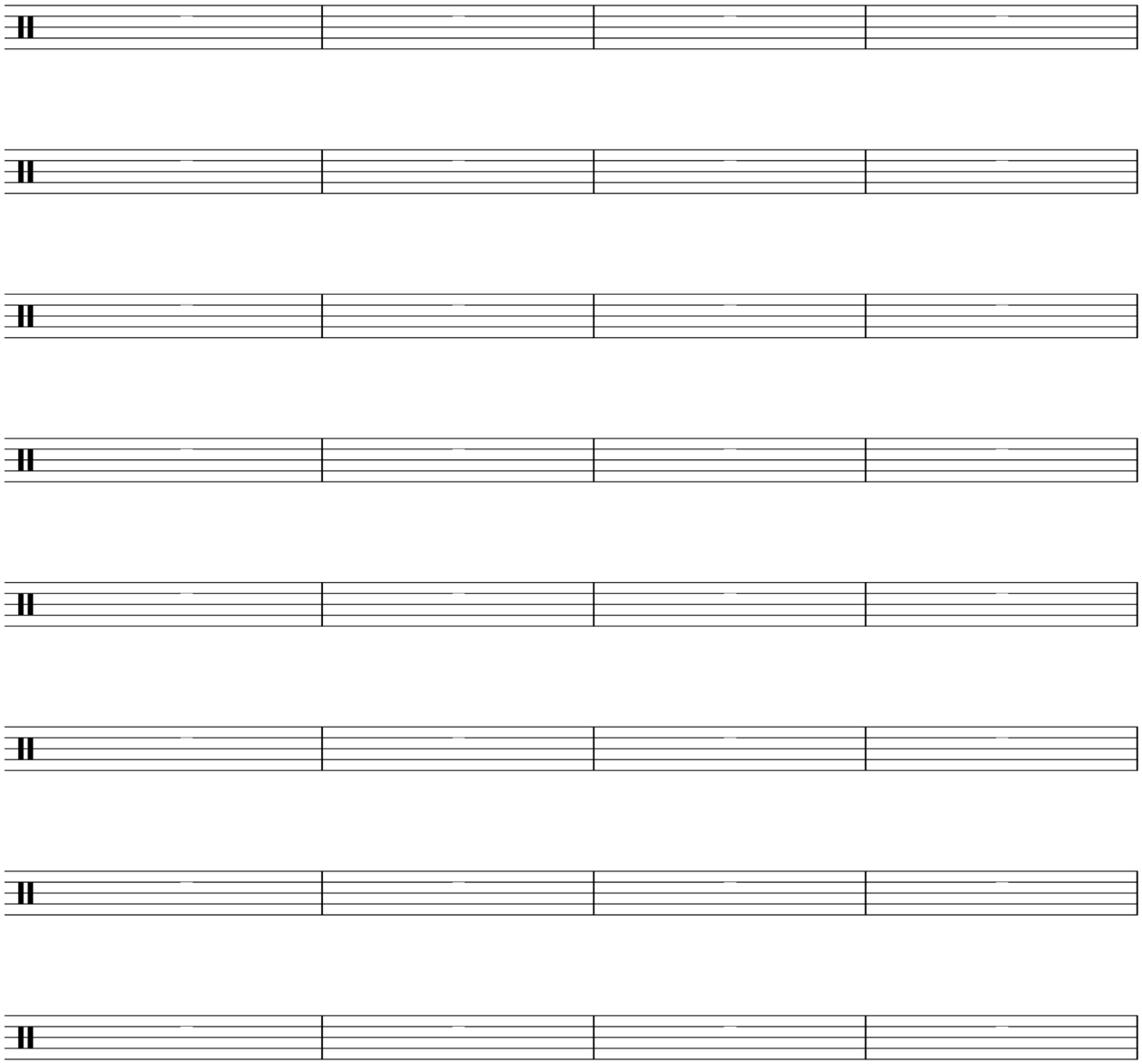
30 Improvise and play the rhythm from one line on the same surface or different surfaces. 1 measure, 2 measures, and 4 measures long



Open improvise unmetered and for 4, 8 and 16 measures
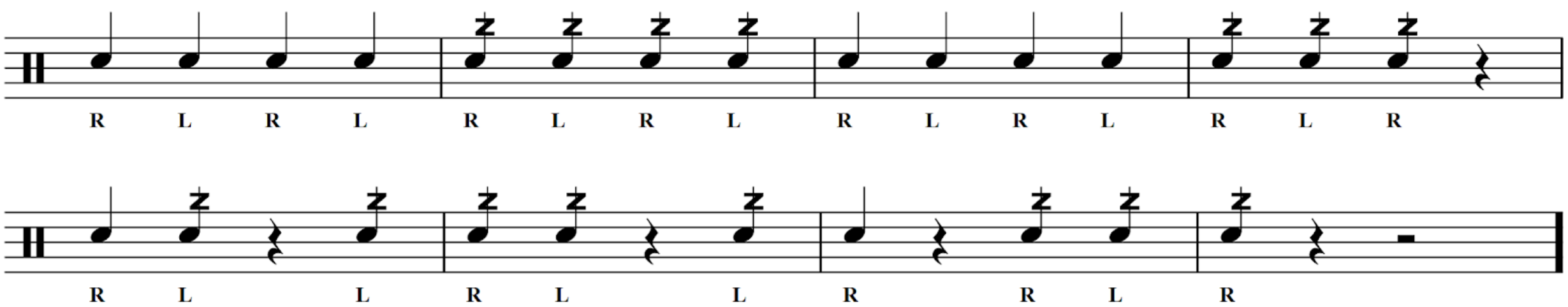


Compose your own etudes, solos, grooves, fills, and overarching rhythms for improvisation with the addition of eighth rests
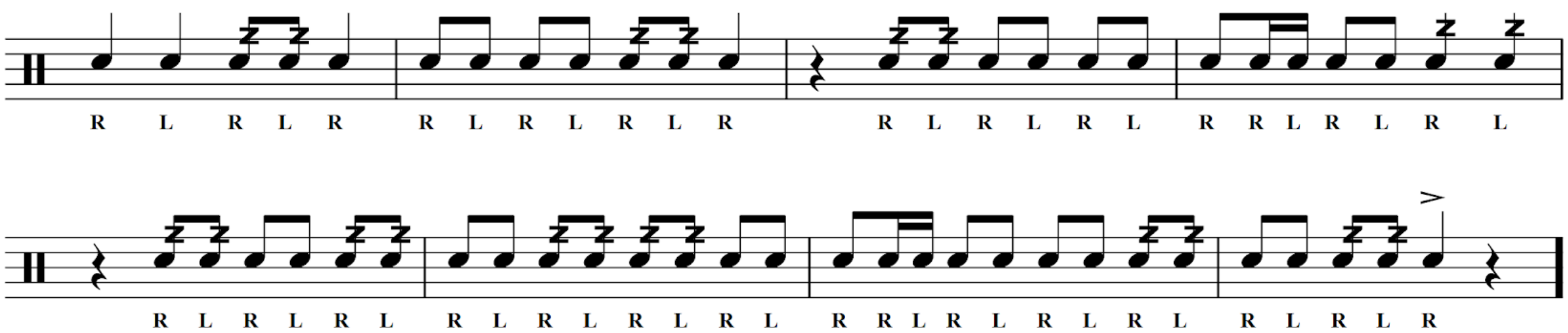


Lesson 7 – Buzz Strokes

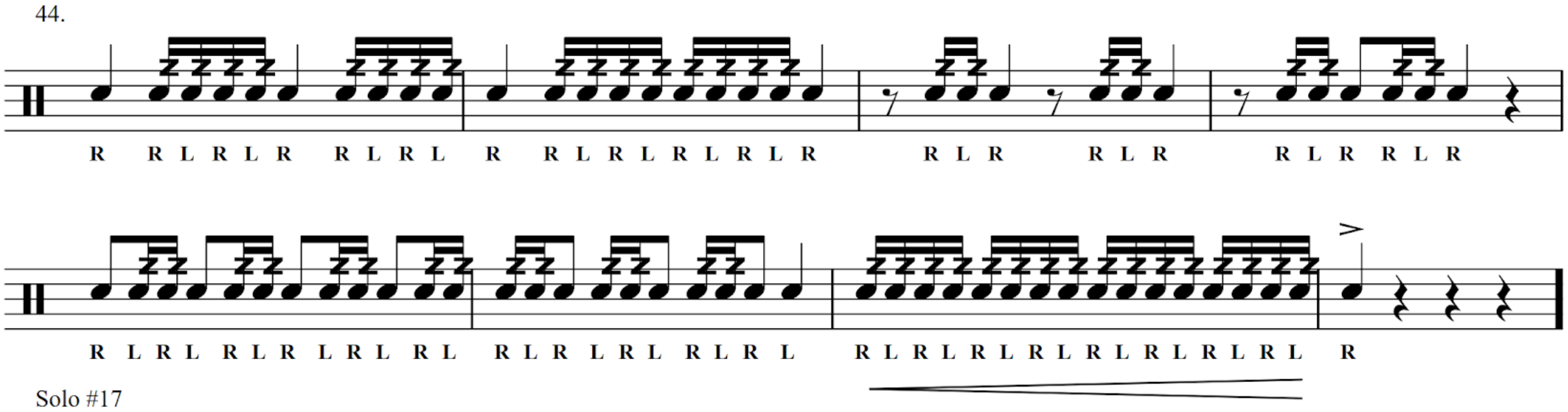
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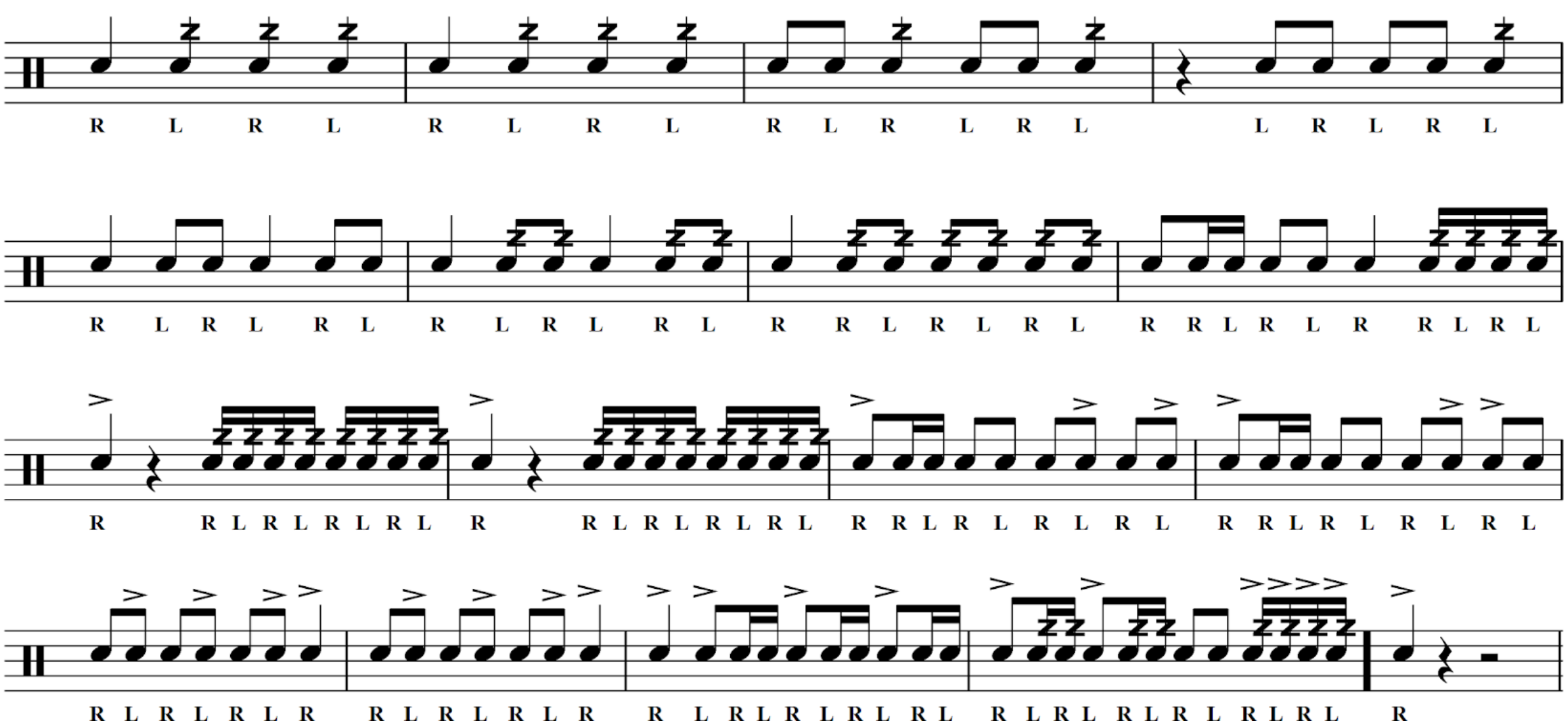


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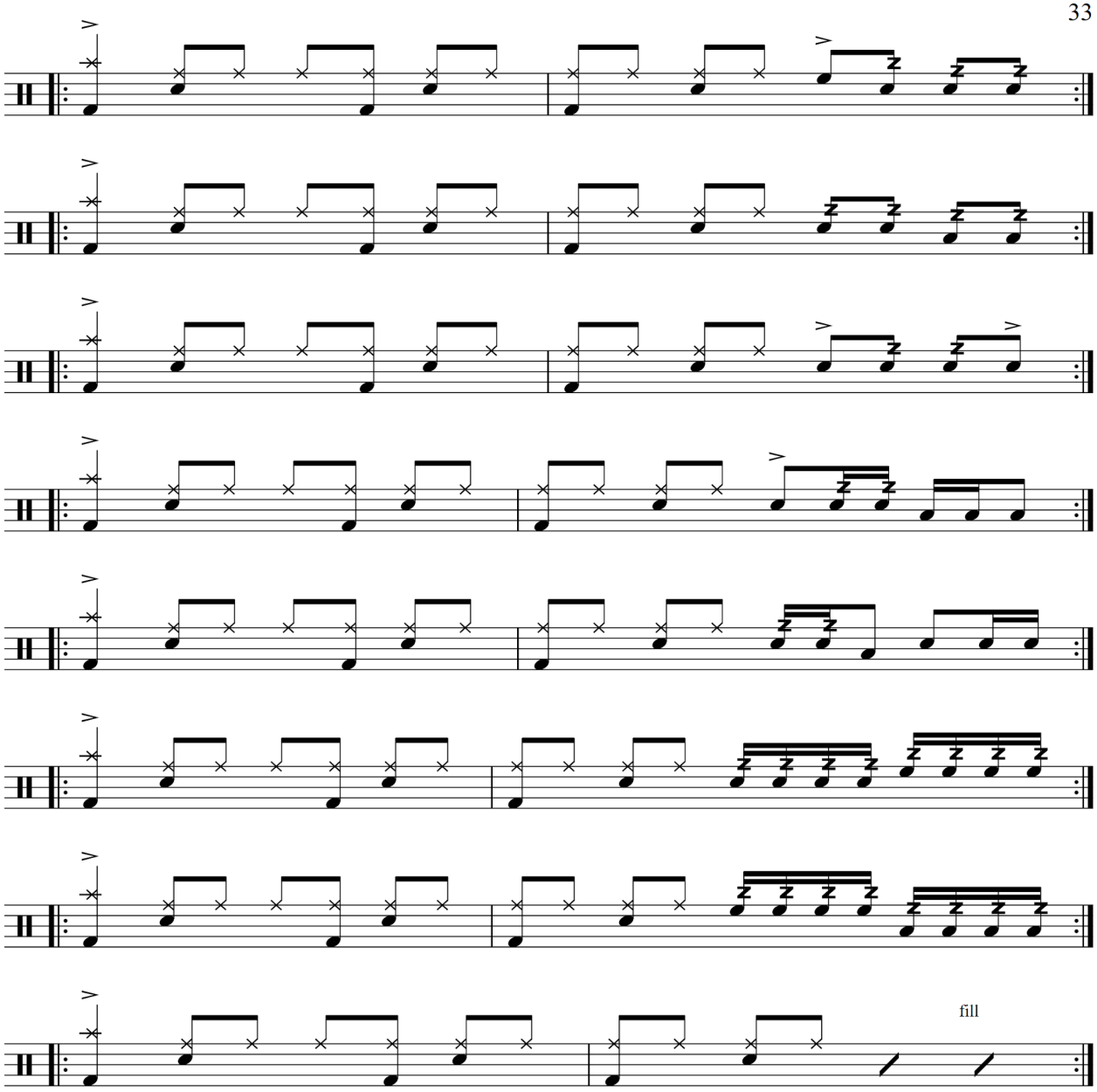


44.

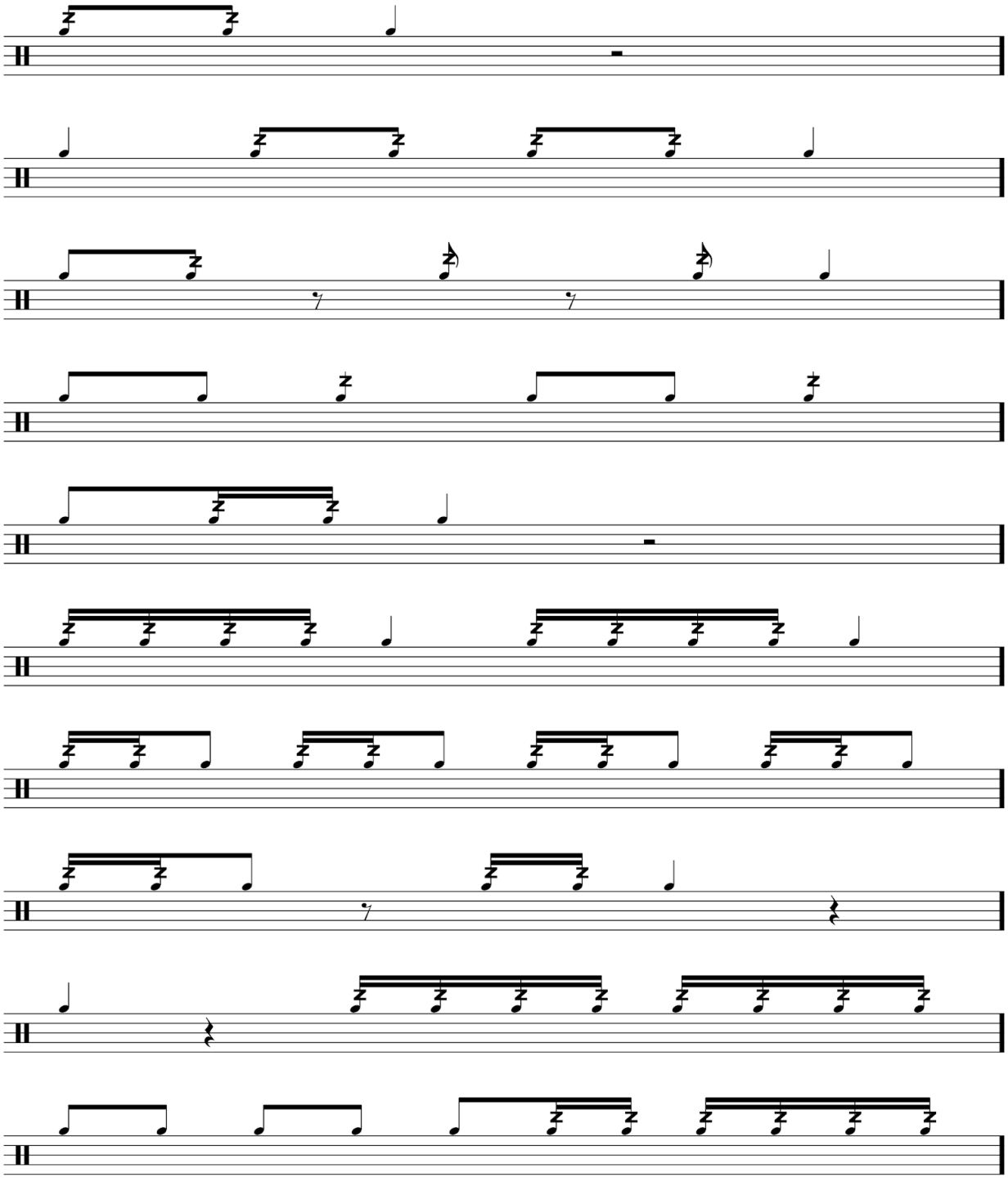


Solo #17




fill

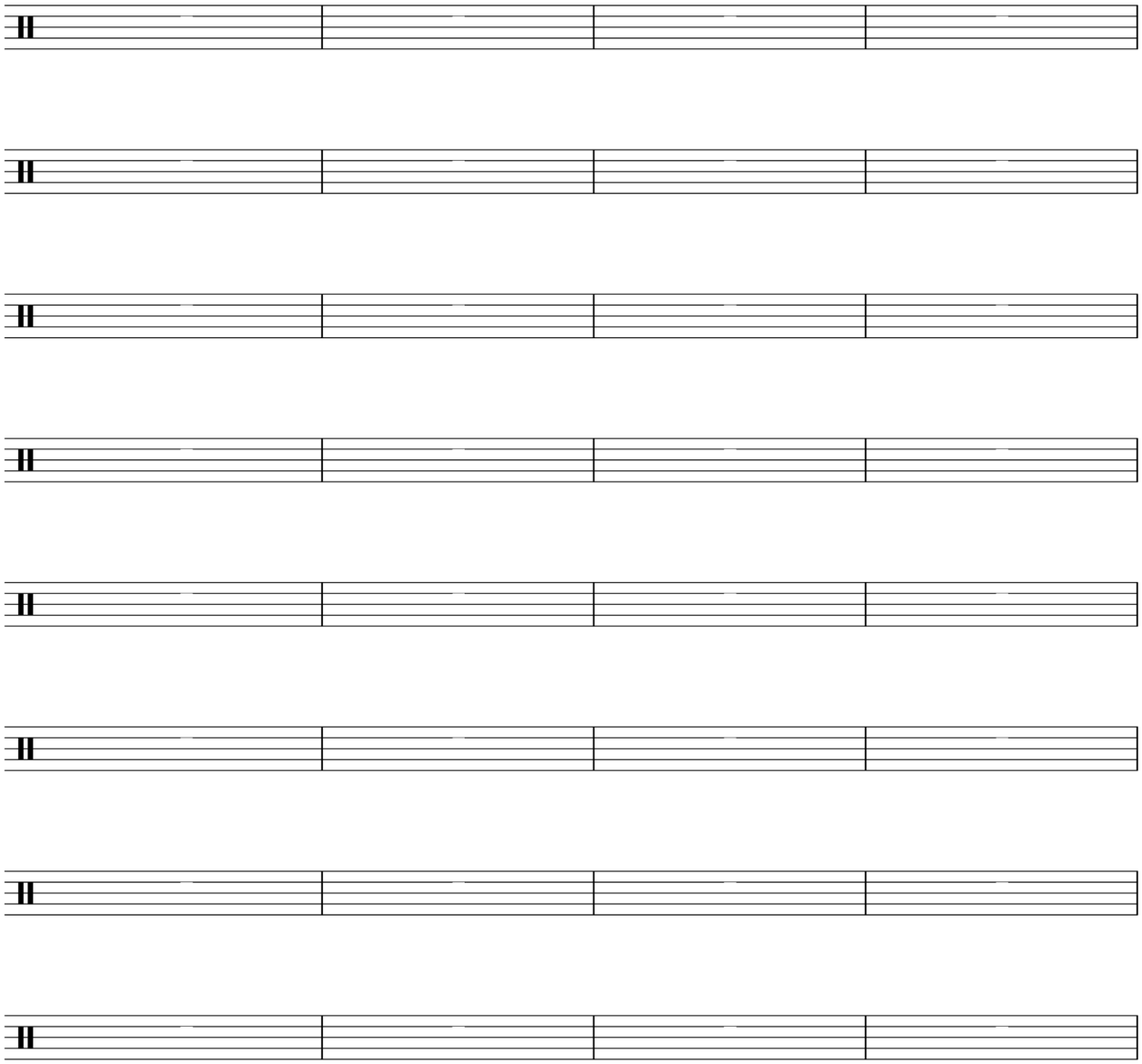
34 Improvise and play the rhythm from one line on the same surface or different surfaces. 1 measure, 2 measures, and 4 measures long
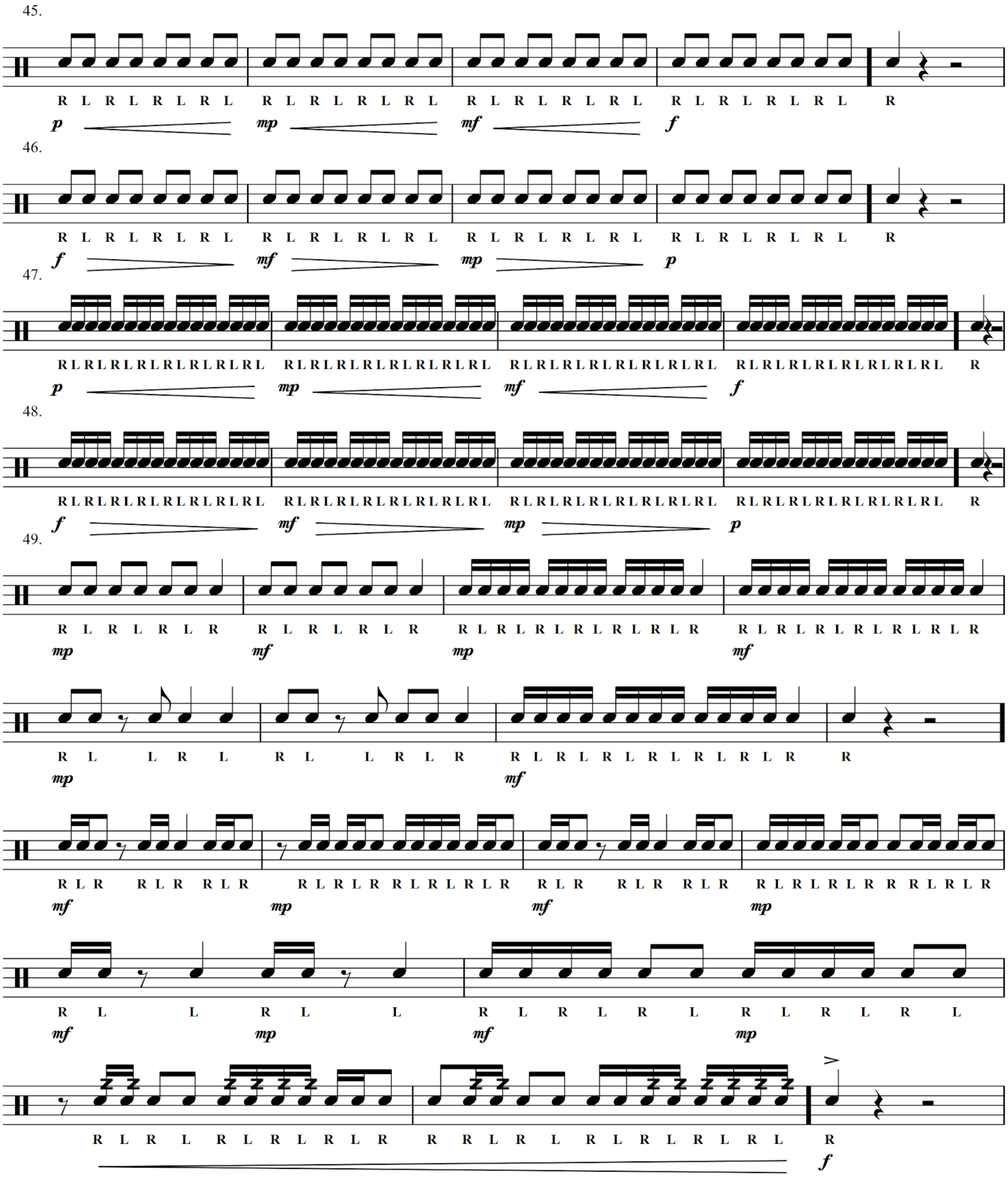


Open improvise unmetered and for 4, 8 and 16 measures
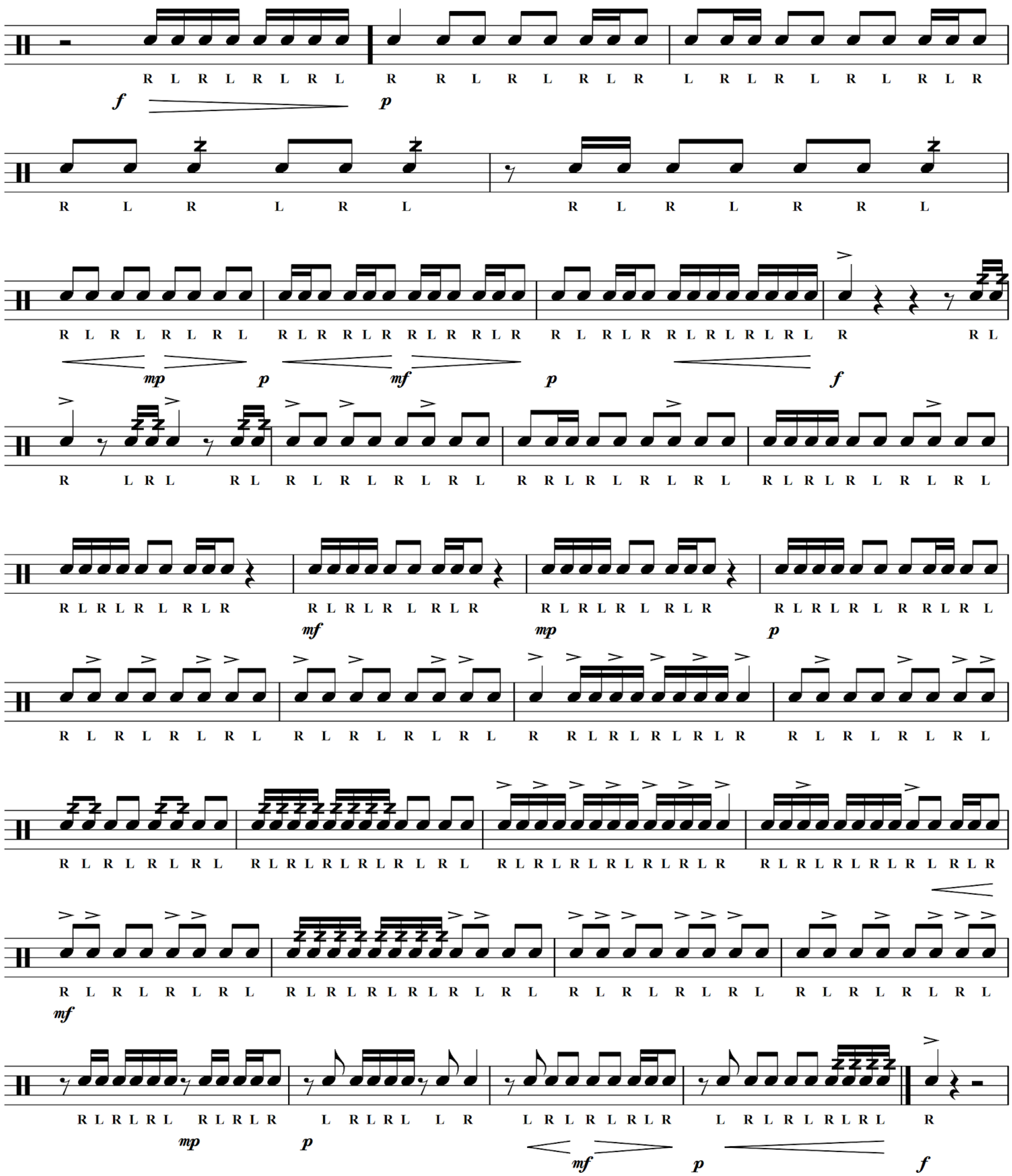


Compose your own etudes, solos, grooves, fills, and overarching rhythms for improvisation with the addition of buzz strokes



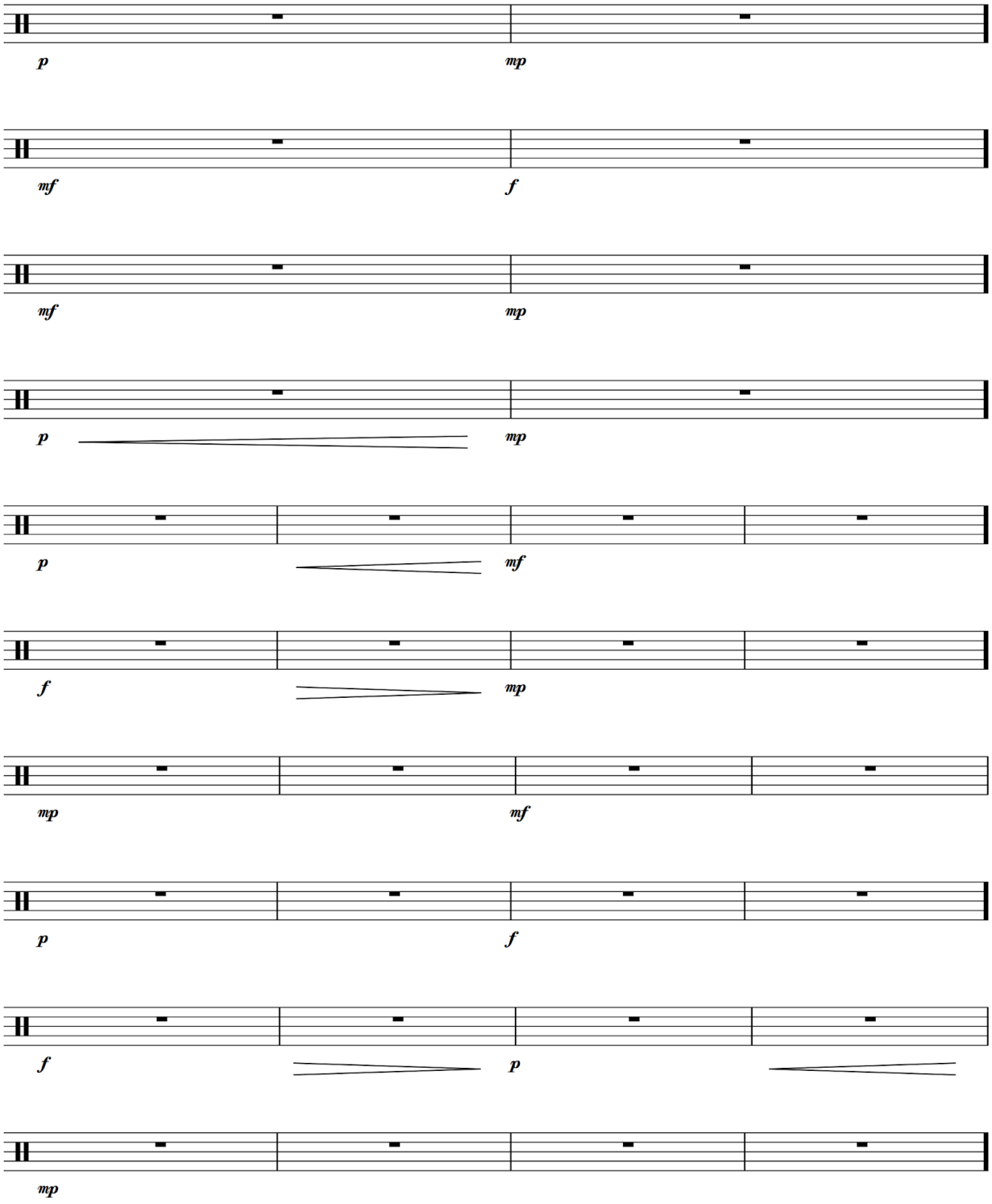
Lesson 8 – Mezzo Piano, Mezzo Forte, Crescendo, and Decrescendo

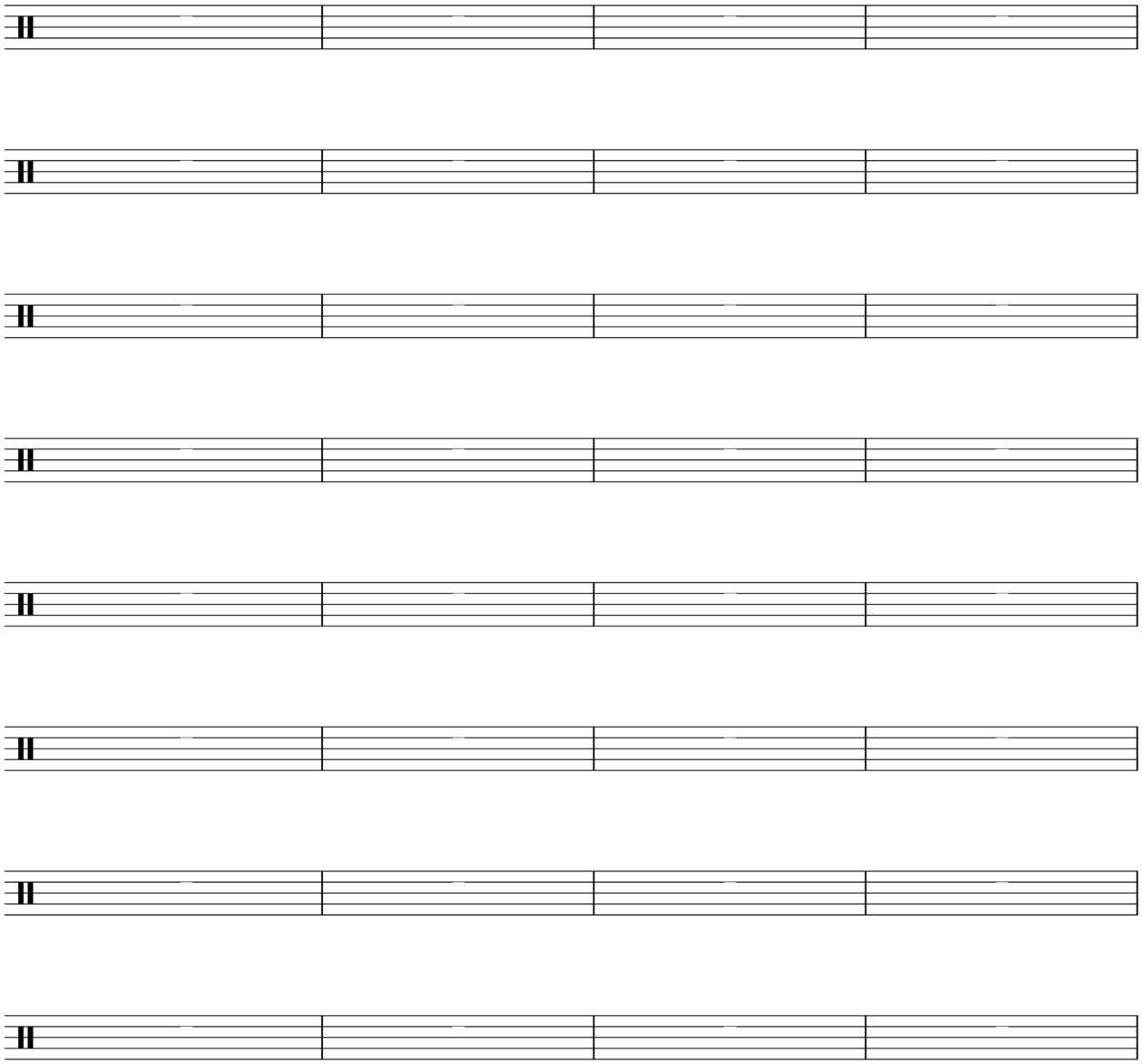


Solo #18


R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R
f p
R L R L R L R L R L R R L
R L R L R L R L R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
mp p mf p f
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R R L R L
mf mp p
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L R R L R L R L R L
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L
mf
R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L L R L R L R L R L R L L R L R L R L R L R
mp p mf p f
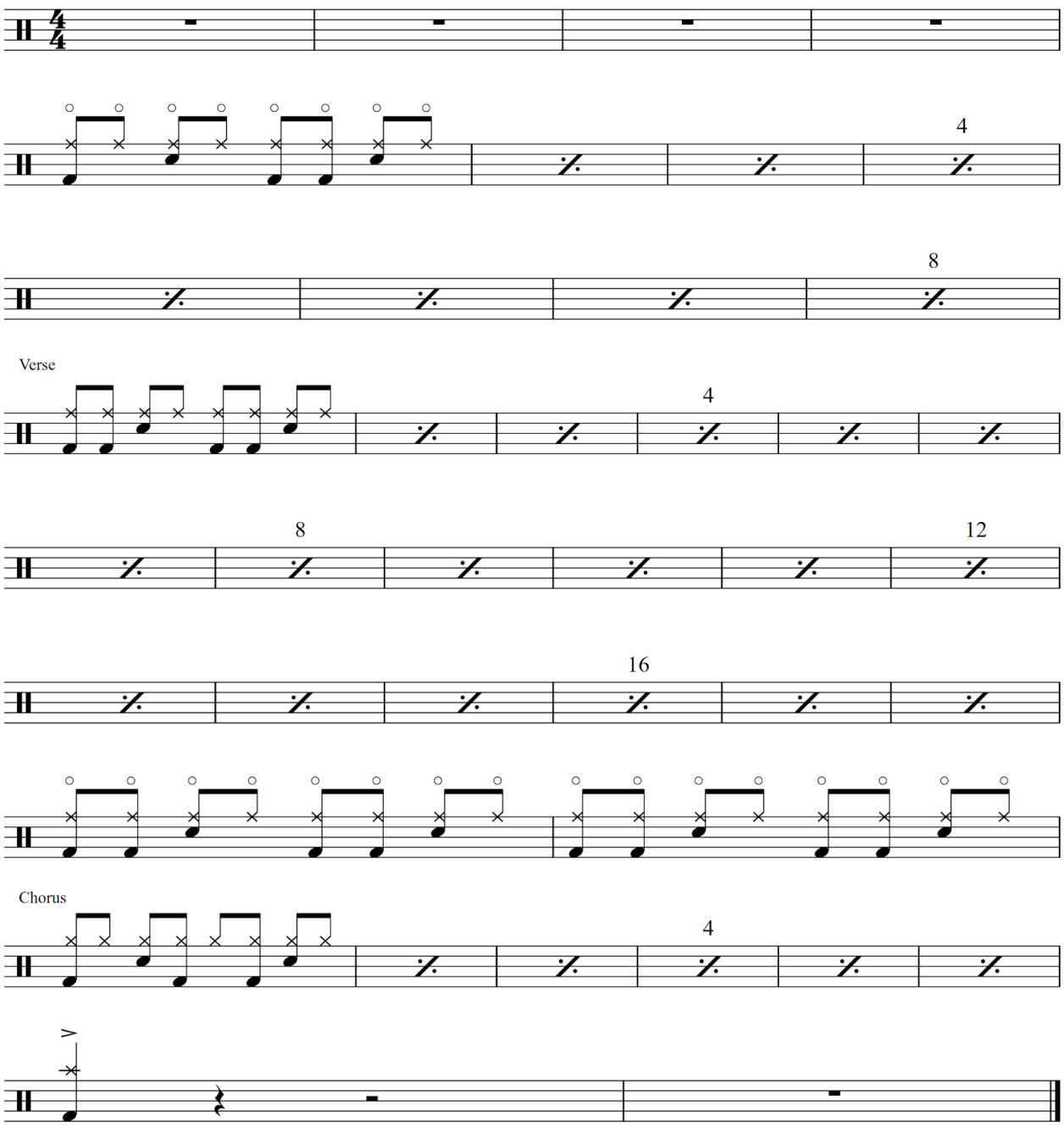
Improvise and play any rhythm with these dynamics





Yellow
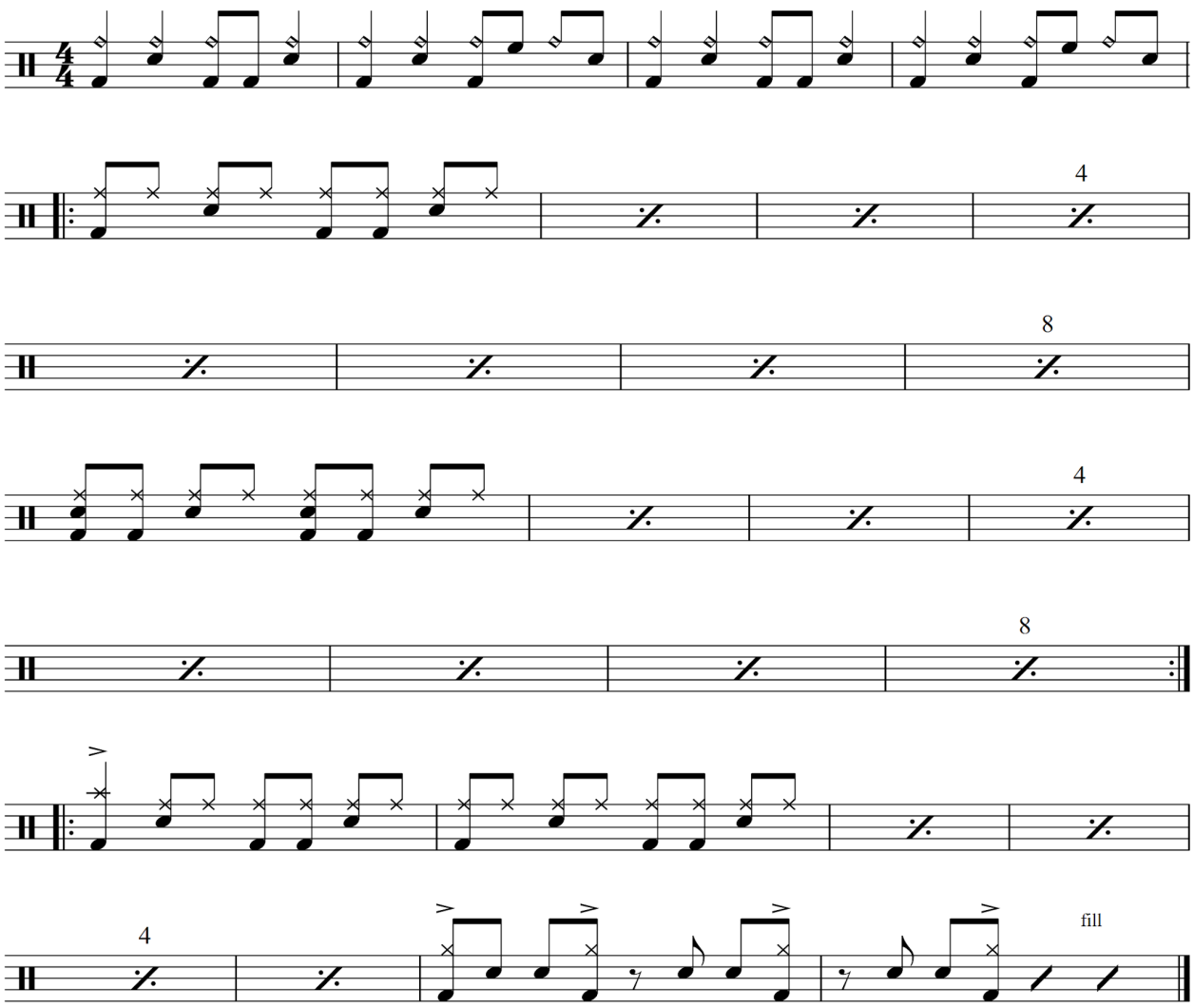
Intro
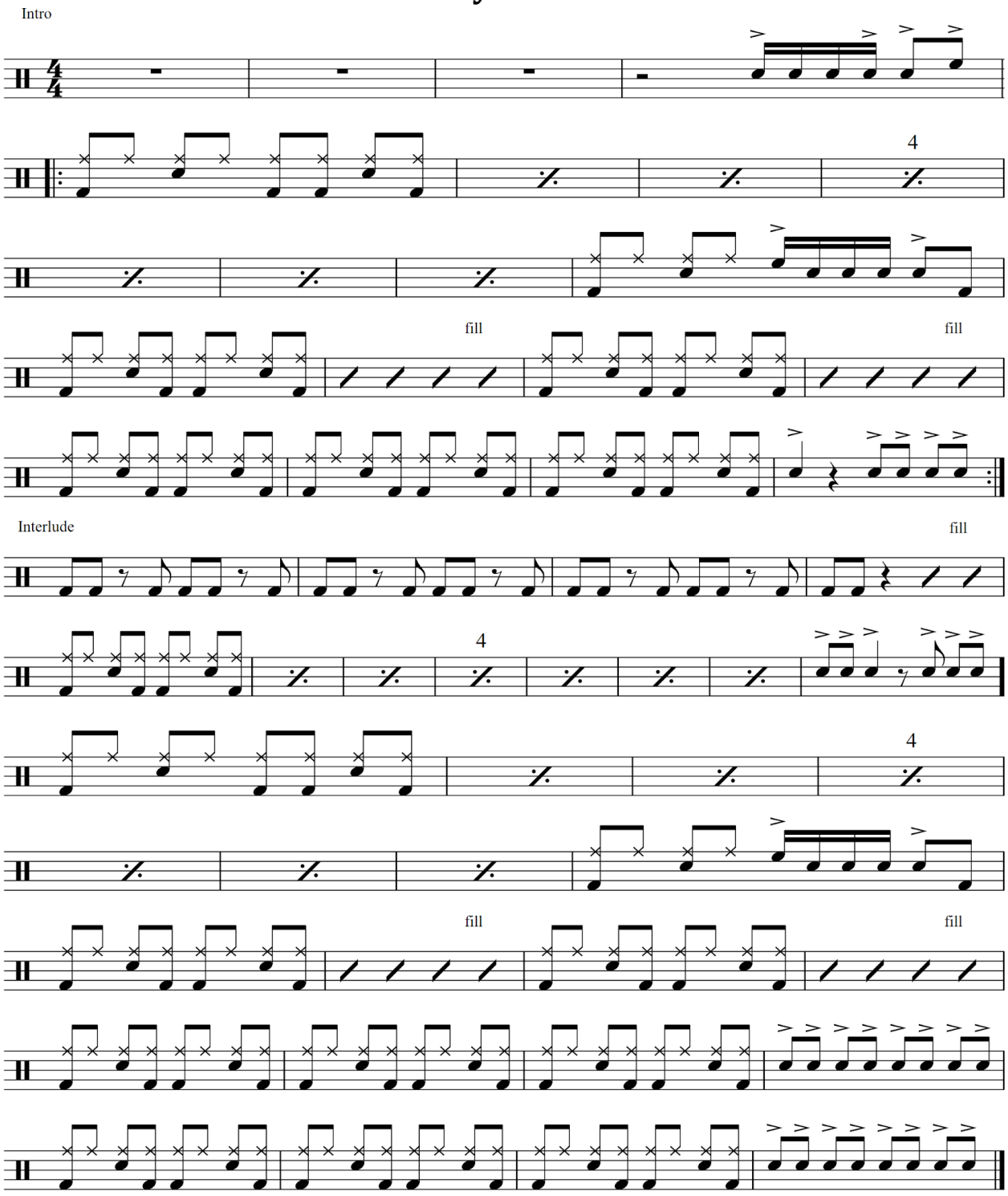


Verse

Chorus
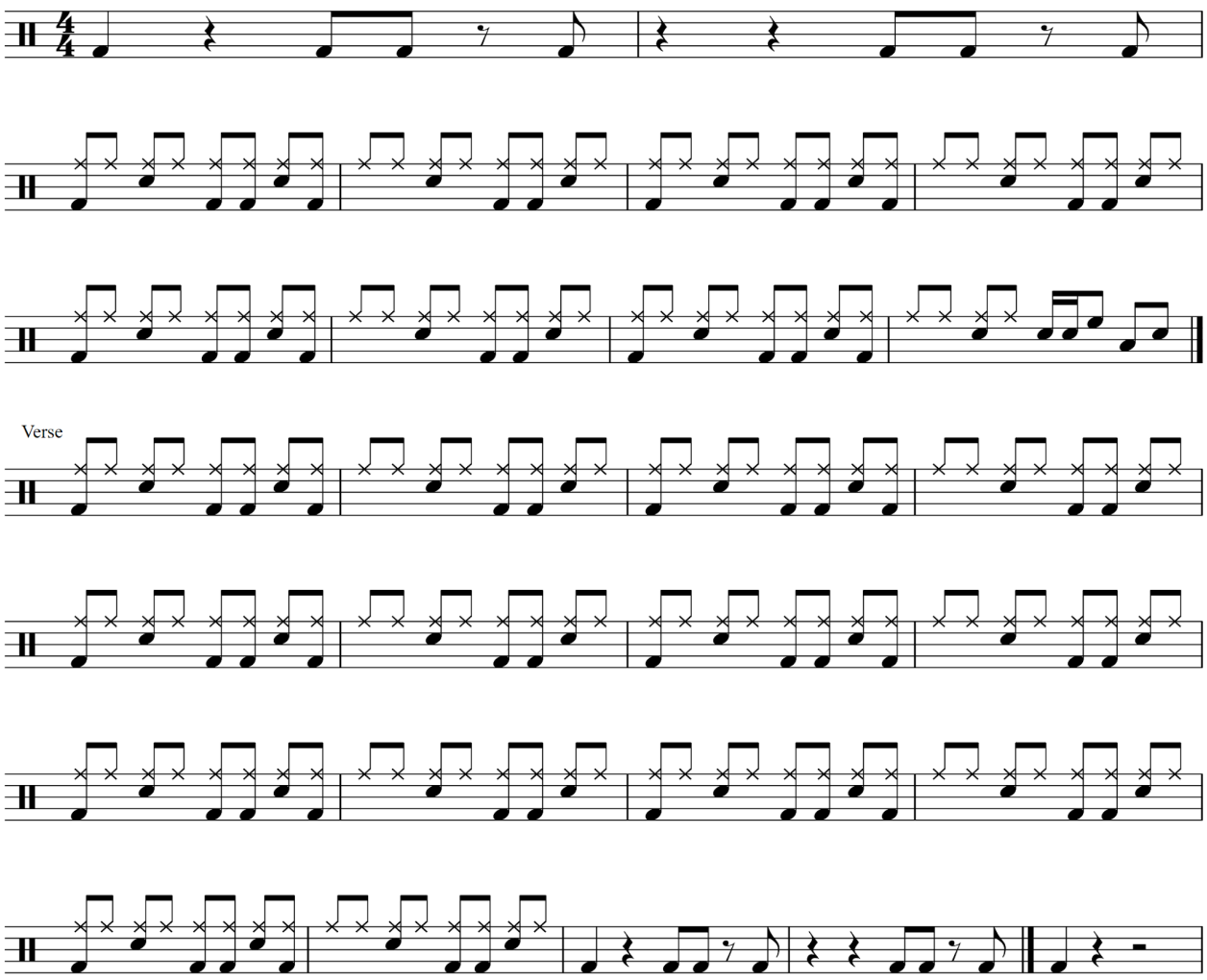
Let’s Stay Together
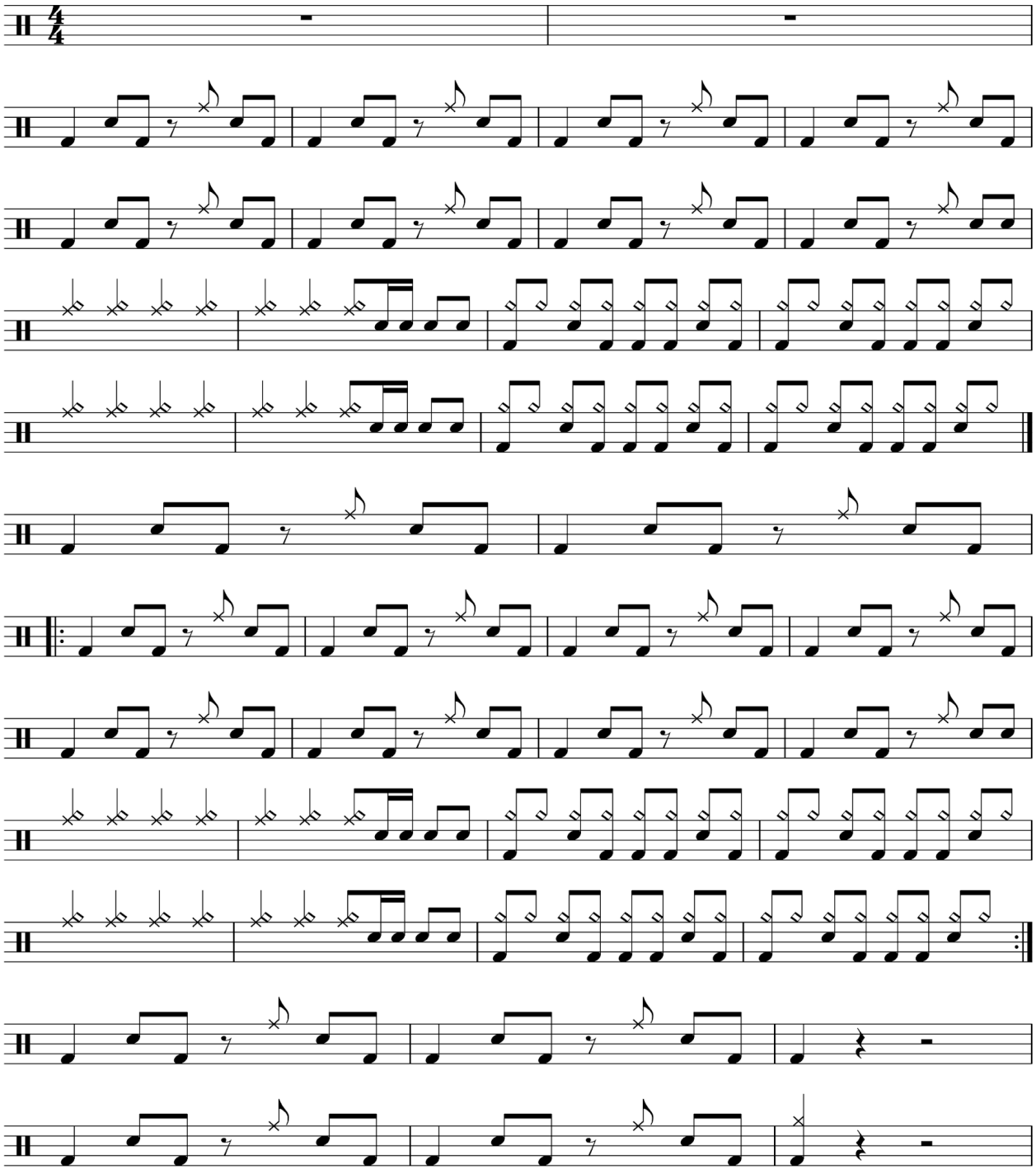


My Girl



Redbone



In My Life


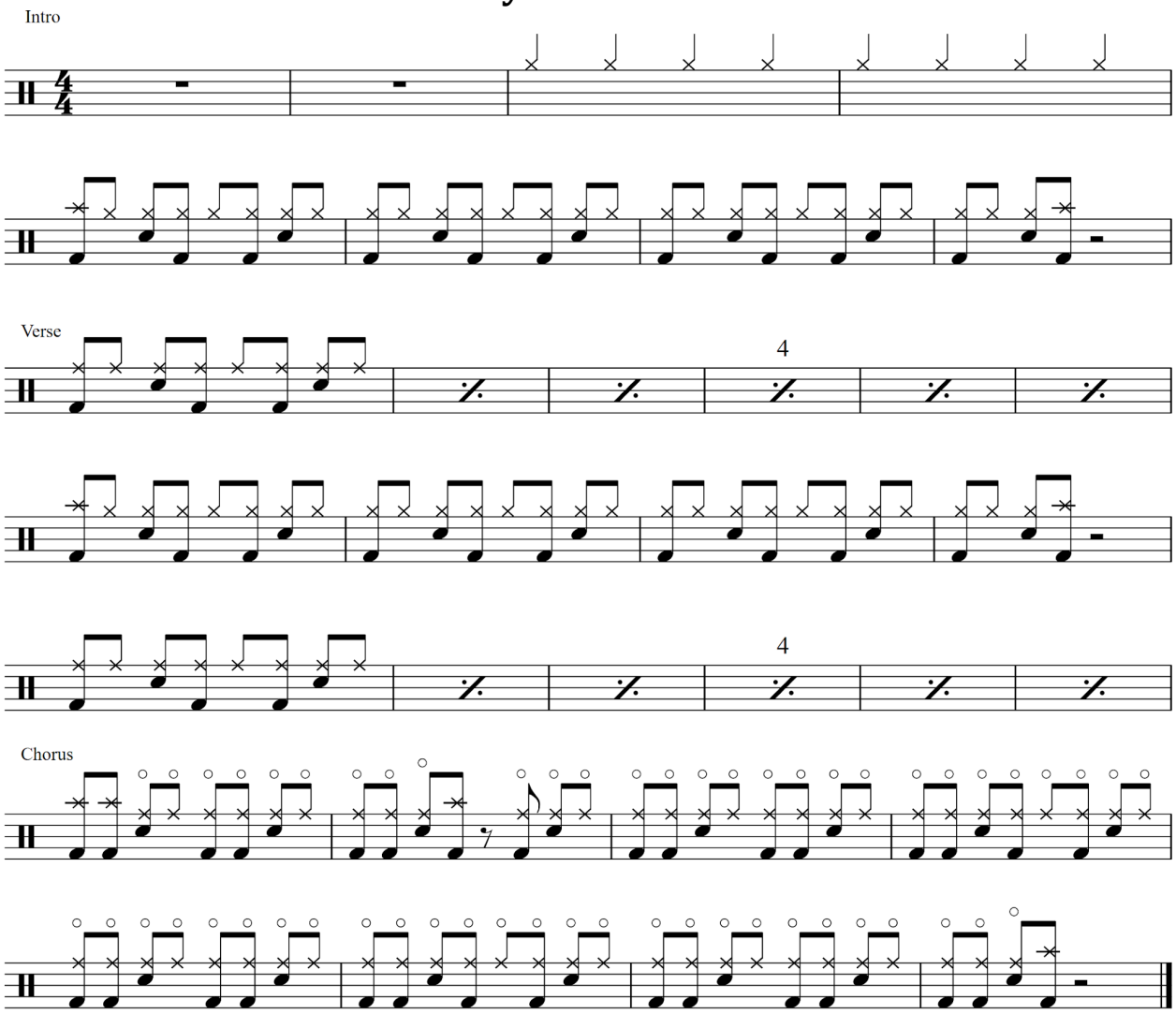
Say It Ain't So

