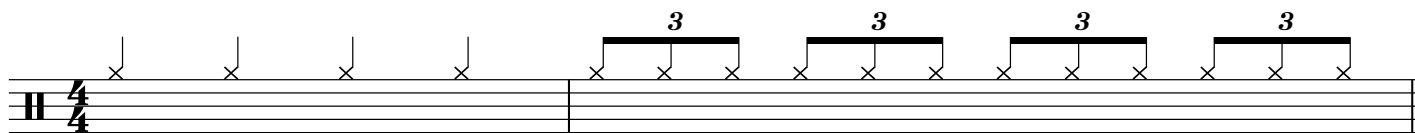


Jazz Ride Pattern

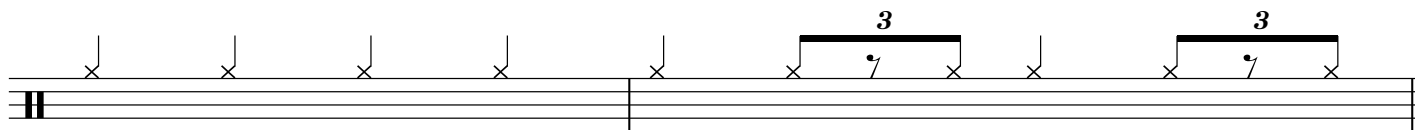
Jacob Wendt
09/29/2022

Playing "time" on the cymbal in a jazz setting

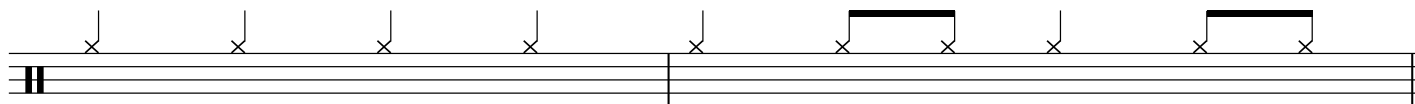
The quarter-note pulse is the main driving force in our time playing.
We want to hear that on the ride cymbal, no matter how we are dividing the beat.



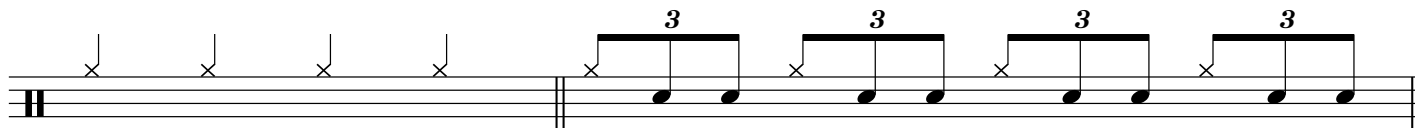
Even though there are many ways to interpret the jazz ride pattern, we usually write it out in eighth-note triplets.



This can be simplified into plain eighth-notes, interpreted with a swing feel, making them sound like triplets. Essentially, the first eighth-note takes up the space of the first two triplets, and the last note remains the same.



You can practice hearing this space by playing quarter notes on the ride cymbal (R) and filling in the other two triples on the snare drum (L). Or play it on a practice pad, keeping the sticking the same.



Triplets aren't always exactly accurate; sometimes the feeling is more "clipped" and can be a bit straighter or flatter sounding. You might see the pattern written out like this:



Even when varying the rhythm of the ride pattern, there should always be a quarter-note pulse driving the time forward. This keeps the groove moving, with a sense of forward direction. This the "time feel" that we want to develop.

