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Key

Five-note Solo Ideas

Another device involves germs built out of five-note phrases. Play the hi-hat on 2 and 4 unless indicated otherwise.

The image displays ten musical staves, each illustrating a unique five-note solo idea in 4/4 time. The first staff features a sequence of eighth notes with accents (>) on the first, third, and fifth notes of each measure. The second staff shows eighth notes with 'x' marks below the first and third notes, indicating hi-hat placement. The third staff includes eighth notes with 'x' marks below the fourth and sixth notes. The fourth staff uses eighth notes with accents and 'x' marks below the first and third notes. The fifth staff introduces triplets (3) over eighth notes, with a slur over the final three notes of the first measure. The sixth staff features sixteenth-note triplets (3) and eighth-note triplets (3). The seventh staff shows sixteenth-note triplets (3) and eighth-note triplets (3). The eighth staff combines sixteenth-note triplets (3) and eighth-note triplets (3) with 'x' marks below the first and third notes. The ninth staff uses eighth notes with 'o' marks above the first and third notes, indicating a specific articulation. The tenth staff features eighth notes with 'x' marks below the first and third notes, and a final measure with eighth notes.

Now let's examine three great solos to see how the previously described material can be used in a musical context. Get these recordings — hear the masters play!