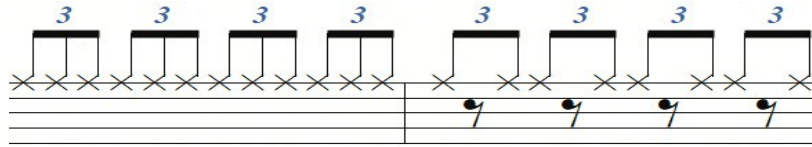


Shuffles

DRUM LESSONS IN LA.COM

While it is prevalent in blues, the shuffle rhythm is used in almost every style of early and modern music. You also hear it in rock, funk, country, hip hop, and the list seems endless. Traditionally, the rhythm is subdividing the pulse into triplets (see the first measure below) and only playing the first and last of the three notes (see the second measure below).



Here is a basic shuffle rhythm. It can be helpful to think of it as taking a straight 8th note beat and pulling apart the two 8th note partials. Think of the hi hat rhythm like an egg rolling down a hill.

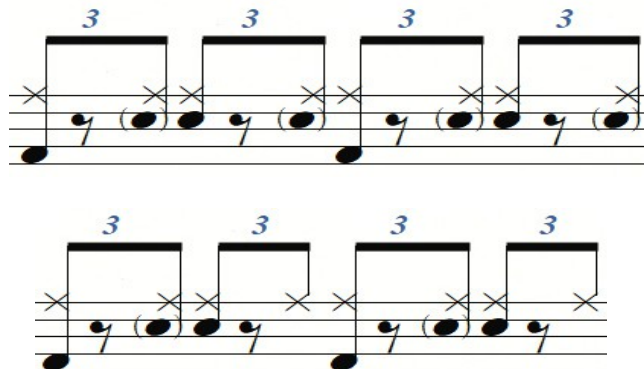


There are different interpretations and variations of this rhythm, with different dynamic inflections, and even degrees of swing. The names of each of these are also somewhat controversial as to what they are called and where they originated. For example, what one person calls a Chicago shuffle, another may call a Texas shuffle. Make sure to check out the links to the songs included showing each type of shuffle and go [here](#) to see videos of each shuffle.

Here are some common ways to play the shuffle.

CHICAGO / TEXAS SHUFFLE

There are different variations of this shuffle. Here are a few. Make sure to articulate the dynamics between the ghost and regular notes. ([Cold Shot](#), [Pride and Joy](#))



Shuffles

DRUM LESSONS IN LA.COM

DOUBLE SHUFFLE

The same goes for this shuffle. Make sure to articulate the dynamics between the ghost and regular notes. ([La Grange](#))



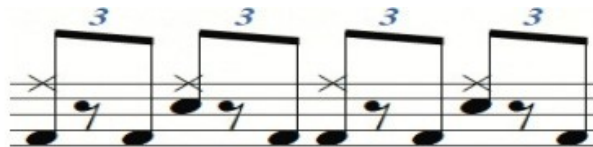
FLAT TIRE / PUSH SHUFFLE

The flat tire shuffle has the snare drum on all of the third triplet partials. ([Kidney Stew](#))



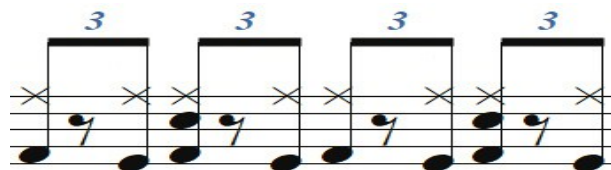
ROCK SHUFFLE

This rock shuffle has the shuffle rhythm articulated between the bass and snare drums. ([Lido Shuffle](#))



DOUBLE BASS SHUFFLE

The double bass shuffle has the shuffle rhythm using both feet. ([Quadrant 4](#), [I'm the One](#), [Hot For Teacher](#))

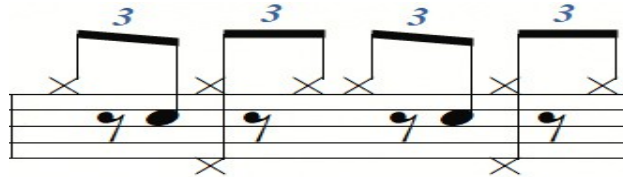


Shuffles

DRUM LESSONS IN LA.COM

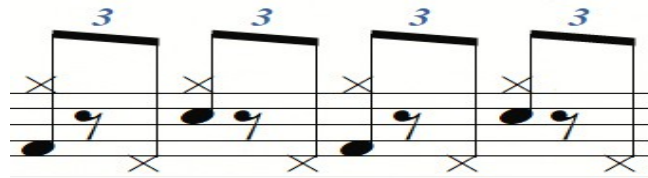
JAZZ SHUFFLE

The typical jazz pattern only needs a snare note on the third triplet partials of beats 1 and 3 to make a shuffle. ([Soul Jazz Shuffle](#))



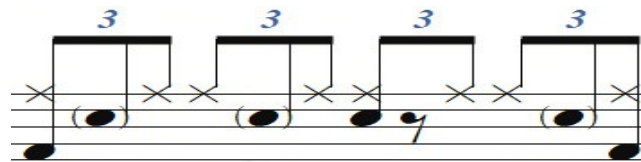
SCISSOR SHUFFLE

The scissor shuffle plays the shuffle rhythm between the ride cymbal and hi hat foot. (Check out [Steve Gadd](#) playing this one.)



HALF TIME

This half time shuffle has the main snare note on 3, with ghost notes on the second triplet partials. ([Babylon Sisters](#), [Fool in the Rain](#), [Rosanna](#), [Grapevine Fires](#))



ONE MORE

To bring home the point of how much you can vary the feel of a shuffle, check out the song , [Think](#) by James Brown The beat here is right in between straight and shuffled.

These are definitely not the only way to play each kind of shuffles. The beauty of shuffles, and music in general, is how differently the same beats are interpreted. Happy shuffling.