



Systems Book 1: Drumming Technique And Melodic Jazz Independence

Ari Hoenig

Alfred Publishing

Those familiar with Ari Hoenig will be aware of his melodic drumming style and this great book gives an insight into that style. The approach of Systems Book 1 is very similar to Gary Chester's excellent New Breed books, but applied to

jazz drumming. It is essentially a study in interpretation and four-way coordination, where an ostinato is played with two or more limbs while the remaining limb(s) plays a melody or rhythm. The back of the book contains 11 pages of melodies or rhythms using swung 1/8 notes and 1/8-note triplets, and these are interpreted in various ways. The initial hand warm-up systems play the melodies as accents within 1/8 notes, 1/8-note triplets, 1/16 notes, 1/32 notes and sextuplets using several sticking options followed by several flam interpretations, with the coordination exercises beginning in chapter five. Hoenig first offers 11 ways of interpreting the melodies (e.g. snare only, bass only, alternate notes between the feet etc.) against a basic swing ride pattern before suggesting many more increasingly challenging ostinatos, the use of fill-ins (filling in gaps in a phrase with another voice) and quarter-note and half-note triplet ostinatos. Unusually, the book contains no CD, but audio examples of all of the systems can be downloaded from www.arihoenig.com www.arihoenig.com. This book is a serious study in coordination, requiring diligent practice, which will help the student make a vast improvement in their coordination and interpretation of phrases.

