

1. *Styles Series Part 5/8 – New Orleans Beat* – The New Orleans beat is always fun to play to. This style emerged from the streets of New Orleans in the late 1800's as the civil war came to a close. Brass bands had been playing and competing during the war for quite some time. After the war was over, the military bands had no use for their instruments anymore so they gave them to the pawn shops, which left New Orleans filled with second hand brass instruments from the brass groups that were playing. These brass groups would play through the streets and develop a second line of people that would dance, sing and clip a long with the band as they played. The brass bands were playing with a standard march beat until a great trumpeter appeared by the name of Buddy Bolden. It was said that Bolden was the first to pull the march beat away and add some syncopation to it, which transformed into the syncopated New Orleans Street beat we know today, aka “the big four”. (Listen to the video examples.)
2. Playing along with the New Orleans street beat doesn't take much besides listening to the other members to the group. The specific rhythms of the groove are going to be syncopations with beat four heavily emphasized. You can comp and groove however you want rhythmically as long as it's in the pocket with the beat the drummer is playing. Remember, with this groove it's about creating fun dance music with syncopated rhythms. The rhythms you play are going to be much more important than your voicings.