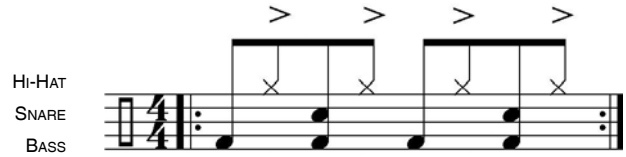
26 TECHNO

The invention of electronic instruments such as the Theramin and the Ondes Martenot in the 1920s and 1930s introduced a new method of creating music. This new approach remained largely confined to classical composers (e.g., Stockhausen and Messiaen) until the late 1960s and early 1970s when ensembles such as Beaver & Krause and Kraftwerk began to replace acoustic and electric instruments (guitar, bass, piano, etc.) with electronic instruments (synthesizers) producing "electronic music." By the 1980s, electronic music's influence had reached popular culture with artists such as Devo, The Buggles, Human League, Yaz, and Erasure, as electronically produced sounds became mixed with melodic pop songs. The term "Techno" emerged in the late 1980s, but the style only achieved popularity in the early 1990s (primarily in the UK) when harder, more powerful beats were merged with dance tracks to produce music which was heavily "dance driven."

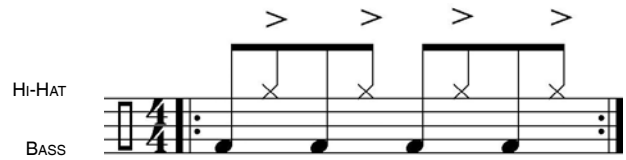
In addition to Techno compositions, another term and style associated with this genre is "Remix," which means adding new tracks to a popular song, subtracting original tracks, especially drums, and then "remixing the result." This usually results in a faster feel and a heavy, repetitive drum beat. Currently, Techno has a large variety of sub-styles. House (with a non-deviating "four on the floor" rhythm), Ambient Wave, Trance, Trip Hop, Tribal, and Breakbeat (which led to the emergence of the "Jungle" style) are all modern branches of electronic, dance-driven music.

Though Techno is not usually performed with a live drum set player, incorporation of Techno sounds into other dance styles and the popularity of the Jungle and Drum n' Bass genres may at times require a drummer to replicate the sound of Techno. A useful set up for Techno is small, high-pitched drums with small, "trashy" cymbals. Also, the employment of an electronic drum kit or a triggered set up (drums that are wired to "trigger" electronic sounds) could prove useful in reproducing the sound of Techno. In contrast to those of Drum n' Bass/Jungle, Techno patterns are generally less intricate, require more consistency, and usually have a heavy, "four on the floor" bass drum pattern (though it may deviate). Techno's tempos are slightly slower than those of Drum n' Bass/Jungle. **The tempo range is quarter note = 110–184 bpm.**

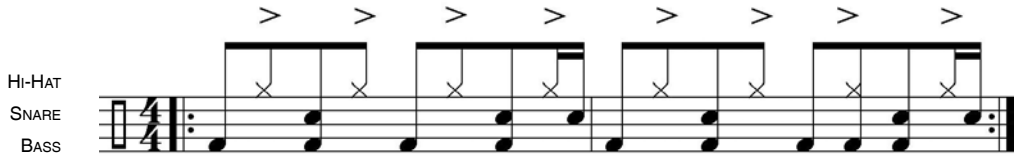
EXAMPLE (CD 2, Track 86)



VARIATION 1

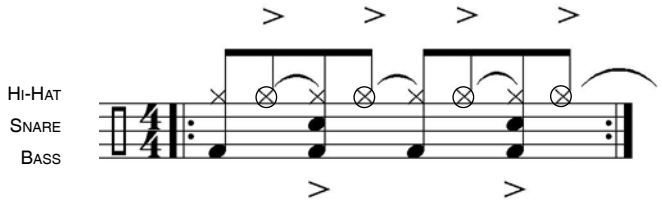


VARIATION 2



VARIATION 3 (CD 2, Track 11)

This is identical to the main Example from the Disco chapter, and is particularly suitable for the House style.



(Circled hi-hat notes are played open)