

JP BOUVET TEACHES ME IMPROVISATION

YOUTUBE VIDEO

THE PREMISE

-JP HAS A CONCEPT CALLED “BUILDING BLOCKS”, WHICH IS SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO MY CONCEPT OF “SWITCHING EXERCISES”. I WANTED TO KNOW MORE, SO I ASKED HIM TO EXPLAIN AND DEMONSTRATE.

THE ORIGIN

-HE WAS SEARCHING FOR A WAY TO TEACH PEOPLE TO PLAY “FLOW GROOVES” ([NATE VIDEO OF SAME THING FOR REF](#))
-HE REALIZED THE “MELODY” - THE SYNCOPATIONS I CALL THE “CLAVE” - WAS THE HARD PART
-HE REMEMBERED HIS FRIEND IAN BARNETT AND THE “FOOTWORK” beat. ([VIDEO OF FOOTWORK MUSIC FOR REFERENCE](#))

HOW IT DEVELOPED

-JP STARTED COLLECTING “FOOTWORK” VARIATIONS FROM HIS FRIEND IAN BARNETT ([VIDEO](#))
-THERE WERE 8 BASIC PERMUTATIONS, AND HE ADDED 8 MORE BASED ON HIS OWN PATTERN (AND PERMUTATED THEM)
-BECAUSE YOU CAN'T HOLD ALL 16 IN YOUR HEAD, JP WORKS ON THEM IN PAIRS - THIS IS THE PARALLEL TO THE SWITCHING EXERCISE.

NEXT STEPS

-THE DRILLS EXIST TO GET YOU TO THE POINT WHERE YOU'RE NO LONGER THINKING ABOUT THEM
-AFTER SOME PRACTICE, “CURATE” - ASK WHAT YOU'RE REPEATING AND WHAT YOU'RE NEVER PLAYING

HOW MY THINKING LINES UP

-I STARTED ASSEMBLING LINEAR CHUNKS TO MIRROR WHAT DRUMMERS I WATCHED WERE PLAYING
-I REALIZED THAT BY COMBINING POPULAR “BITS” YOU COULD ASSEMBLE A VOCABULARY
-I THEN TOOK THE CONCEPT FROM FILLS TO THE HATS FOR THE “FUNK CLAVES”

JP'S OBSERVATION

JP MADE THE ASUTUTE OBSERVATION THAT YOU NEED NON-SYMMETRICAL PATTERNS TO MAKE “MELODIES”, AND THAT WITHOUT A STRUCTURE THAT KEEPS THEM IN 2 BARS, THE STUDENT WILL STRUGGLE. SURE ENOUGH, OVER-THE-BARLINE LICKS ARE ANOTHER LEVEL OF CHALLENGE.

**BACKGROUND
INFO**

**WHY DID
JP THINK OF
IT**

**PERMUTATIONS
AND
SWITCHING**

**WHY WE DO
IT**

**NATE'S
DEMO**

