Drum Beat

by Carmine Appice

Getting a handle on Black Crowe Steve Gorman

Now he's sold a million records, but two years ago Black Crowe Steve Gorman was, well, literally selling records. He clerked at an Atlanta record store.

THE 70's ARE HERE AGAIN!
Well, not really, but if you check out the new album by the Black Crowes you could get lost in the illusion. Cut from the same mold as Humble Pie or the Faces, these guys rock just as hard. I'd like to dedicate this *Drum Beat* to what drummer Steve Gorman laid down on the track "Hard To Handle," the third hit off the band's monster *Shake Your Money Maker* album.

In *Example 1*, Steve plays eighth notes on his high hat in the intro, his snare marking the "2A" and "4." The bass drum plays the "1" and the "&" of 3. This repeats for four bars. In Bar 5, everything repeats except for beat three, where Steve thumps his bass drum on both the "&" of 3 and on "3&A" (16th notes). His snare sounds 16ths on the "4EA&." This fill leads to the verse.

Example II, the verse, consists of two patterns. In the first, Gorman's snare plays the same fill as the intro, as does his bass drum. In the second bar of the sequence the bass drum falls on "1," the "a" of "2" and the "&" of 3. The snare plays on "2-4" with 16th notes on the high hat. This two-bar sequence repeats four times.

In Bar 8 we see a fill played on the "E&A" of 3 (played as a three-stroke riff) and on the "4E&A," all played on the snare. The bass drum comes in on the "1," the "&" of 3 and on the "4&."

Example III is the pre-chorus. Here Steve plays a stock pattern for the duration of Bars 1 and 2. Bar 3, however, sees a cymbal crash and rest on "2,3,4." Bar 4 rests everything on beats 1 and 2, while on beat 3 Steve plays the "A" of 3 on his snare, "4&" on his toms, and the "A" of 4 on his snare.

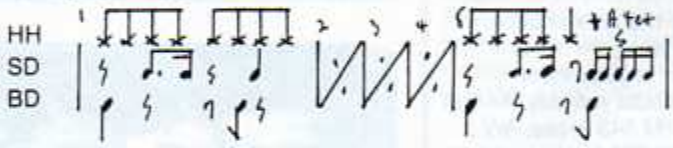
Bar 5 is again a stock pattern, while Bar 6 sees Steve play accents following the band on the "1A" and the "&" of 2 with bass-drum thunks and cymbal crashes. The "&" of 1 and "E" of 2 Steve plays on the snare, after which a fill falls on the counts of "&A" of 3 and "4EA&." A cymbal crash and bass-drum hit move us on.

Despite the Black Crowes' name, Steve Gorman has a real down-to-earth drum sound.

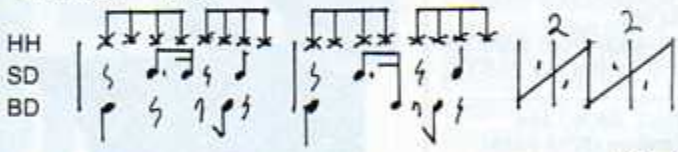
Carmine Appice has played with Blue Murder, King Kobra, Ozzy Osbourne, Rod Stewart, Jeff Beck and Vanilla Fudge.

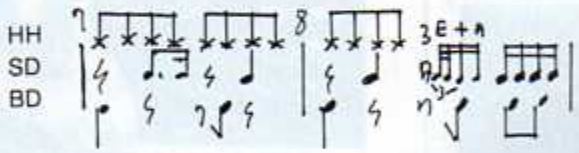
"Hard To Handle"

Example I—Intro

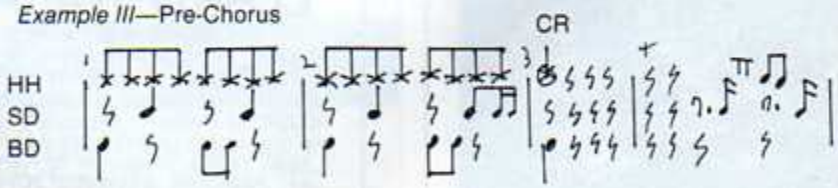
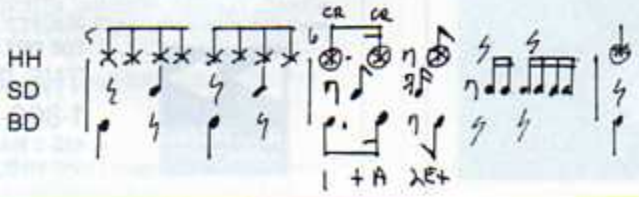


Example II—Verse





CR = Cymbal Crash

TT = Tom TT

Example III—Pre-Chorus