



**- John JR Robinson -**

# **GROOVES**

**From his 'The Time Machine' DVD & Records by  
Michael Jackson, Rufus, Seal, Quincy Jones,  
Lionel Richie, Whitney Houston and more...**

**Transcribed by Eugenio Ventimiglia**

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## 40 John JR Robinson Grooves

“I fell in love with your groove the first time I heard you, and that’s why I tried to steal you’. John Robinson: ‘Well, mission accomplished!’.

When one of the greatest producers ever, Quincy Jones, tells you that, then you must be doing something right.

John JR Robinson is the most recorded drummer in history, one of the top names that every drummer should study and understand, and this is a collection of incredible grooves he has played during his career.

That ‘something’ is what we are going to learn by practicing many of his greatest beats.

The first 20 examples are taken from his ‘The Time Machine’ Dvd. I picked some of the best rhythms he plays in different sections of this must-have educational video.

I highly recommend it, since not only John sounds fantastic in it, but he also generously explains lots of enlightening concepts.

The second half are transcriptions from recordings he has done with Michael Jackson, Jeff Lorber, Rufus, Seal, Quincy Jones, Lionel Richie, Whitney Houston and many more.

What’s so cool about his style is that he has some very unique and original beats, while at the same time he is able to infuse even the simplest rhythm with huge amounts of deep groove. Personality and feeling: a simple and very intelligent way of making music.

Go listen to the recordings to hear his amazing feel and focus on reproducing that as much as you can. That’s where the magic is.

You can click on each groove in the Pdf to go to its specific time in the [YouTube video](#) where I play each example.

These are fun!

This is part of my 'Groove Masters' mini-series. A few more are on their way (and [drop me a line](#) if you have any request).

For instance, I have also created three booklets about Vinnie Colaiuta, Jeff Porcaro and Steve Jordan, which you can download here:

[Vinnie Colaiuta Grooves](#)

[Jeff Porcaro Grooves](#)

[Steve Jordan Grooves](#)

And if you feel like working on your groove, these are for you:

['Groove Workout & Tools' - Altitude Drumming - Volume 7](#)

['Groove Mastery & Formulas' - Altitude Drumming - Volume 8](#)

The click sound is intentionally mixed on the left channel. Pan to the right to listen to just the drums without the metronome.

# John JR Robinson

## 'The Time Machine' Grooves

### Rhythm Section

♩ = 104 bpm

1)

### Brush + Stick Groove

♩ = 95 bpm

2)

### Groove

♩ = 120 bpm

3)

### Slow Grooves

♩ = 59 bpm

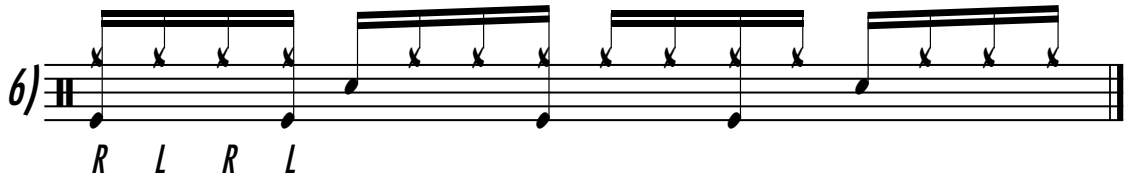
4)

5)

16th Note  
Grooves

♩ = 106 bpm

Basic

6) 

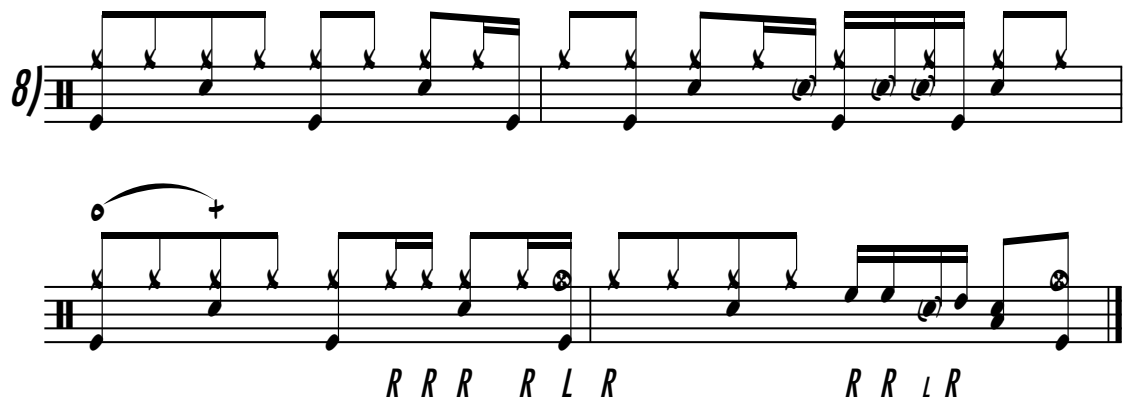
R L R L

Advanced

7) 

Rhythm Section

♩ = 126 bpm

8) 

R R R R L R R R L R

Rhythm Section

♩ = 126 bpm

9) 

R L L R L L R L R L L R L L R L R L L R L L R L

10) 

*Rhythm Section* ♩ = 126 bpm

*Ride*

11)

12)

*Rhythm Section* ♩ = 98 bpm

*Shuffle Feel*

13) *Rim*

14)

*Ride*

15)



*Rhythm Section* ♩ = 118 bpm

16)

*Ride*

17)

18)

*Ride*

19)

*Rhythm Section* ♩ = 141 bpm

20)

*Ride*

21)

# More John Robinson Grooves

Michael Jackson ♩ = 118 bpm

"Shake Your Body  
Down To The  
Ground"

22) 
  
R R R R R L R R L R R

Michael Jackson ♩ = 130 bpm

"Working Day  
And Night"

23)

Michael Jackson ♩ = 110 bpm

"Rock With You"

24) 
  
R L R L

Michael Jackson ♩ = 113 bpm

"The Way You  
Make Me Feel"

25)

Michael Jackson ♩ = 119 bpm

"Don't Stop  
'Til You Get  
Enough"

26)

Chorus

27) 
  
R L R L

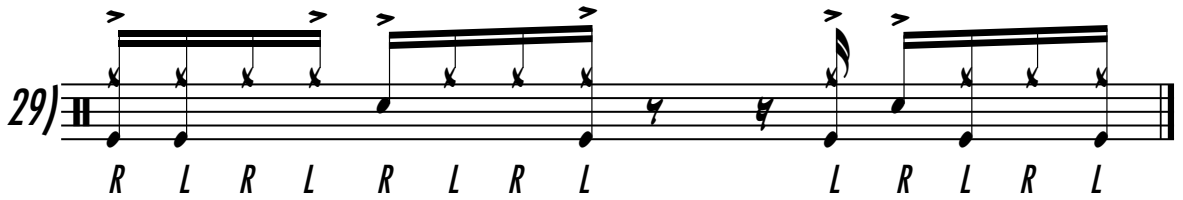
Michael Jackson ♩ = 116 bpm

"Burn This  
Disco Out"

28) 
  
R L R L

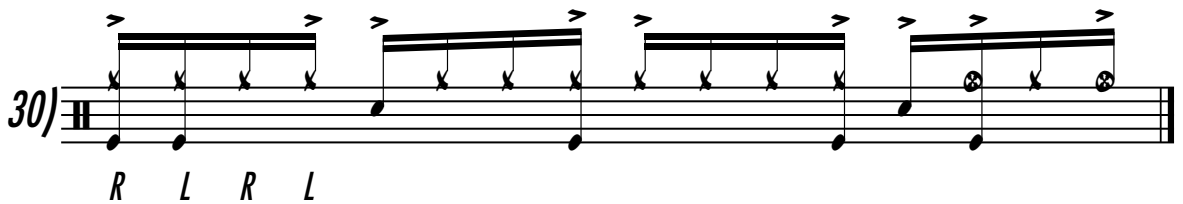
Rufus & Chaka Khan ♩ = 104 bpm

"Ain't Nobody"

29) 

R L R L R L R L L R L R L

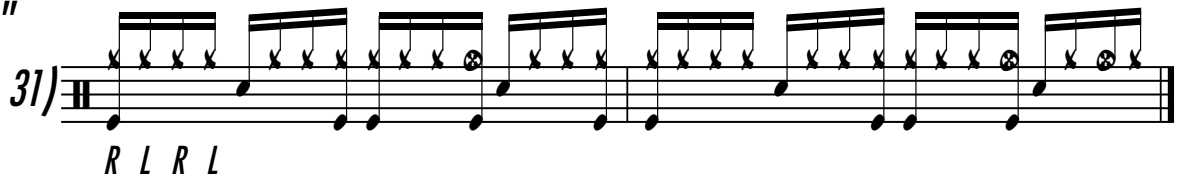
Chorus

30) 

R L R L

Lionel Richie ♩ = 108 bpm

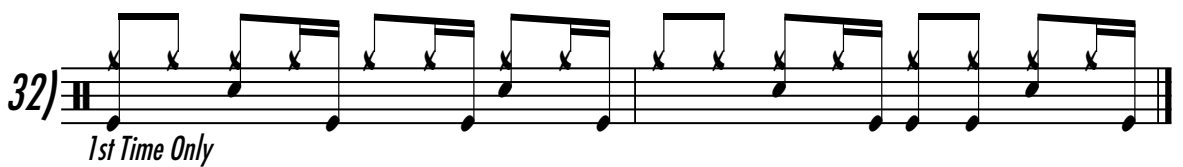
"All Night Long"

31) 

R L R L

Jeff Lorber ♩ = 93 bpm

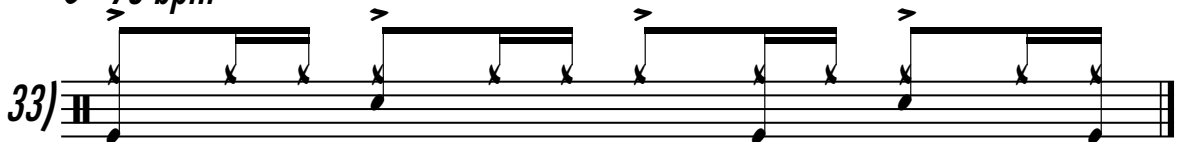
"It's A Fact"

32) 

1st Time Only

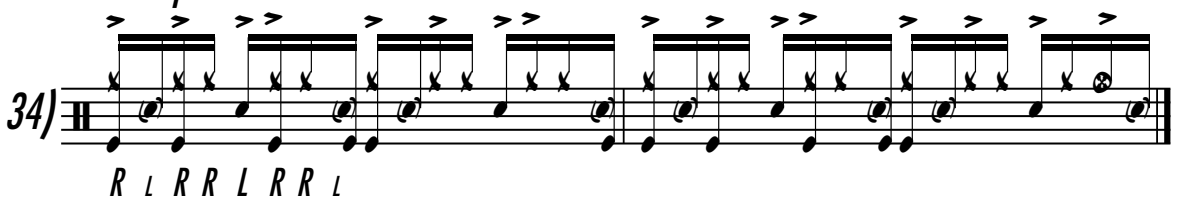
Jeff Lorber ♩ = 76 bpm

"Say Love"

33) 

Jeff Lorber ♩ = 90 bpm

"Midnight"

34) 

R L R R L R R L

Quincy Jones  
"The Dude"

♩ = 96 bpm

Shuffle Feel

35) 
 Musical notation for a drum groove in 4/4 time with a shuffle feel. The tempo is 96 bpm. The notation shows a series of eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with accents and a 'C' symbol indicating a cymbal hit. The bass line consists of quarter notes.

Quincy Jones  
"Ai No Corrida"

♩ = 123 bpm

36) 
 Musical notation for a drum groove in 4/4 time. The tempo is 123 bpm. The notation includes eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with accents and a 'C' symbol. Below the staff, the letters 'R' and 'L' indicate the right and left hands for the bass drum.

Rod Stewart  
"Rebel Heart"

♩ = 125 bpm

37) 
 Musical notation for a drum groove in 4/4 time. The tempo is 125 bpm. The notation features eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with accents and a 'C' symbol. Brackets above the snare line indicate a triplet feel.

Seal  
"Crazy"

♩ = 103 bpm

38) 
 Musical notation for a drum groove in 4/4 time. The tempo is 103 bpm. The notation shows eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with accents and a 'C' symbol.

Whitney Houston  
"The Greatest  
Love Of All"

♩ = 66 bpm

Ride

39) 
 Musical notation for a drum groove in 4/4 time. The tempo is 66 bpm. The notation features eighth notes on the snare and bass drums, with accents and a 'C' symbol.

George Benson  
"Give Me  
The Night"

♩ = 110 bpm

40) Drum notation for George Benson's "Give Me The Night". It features a 4/4 time signature with a snare drum pattern consisting of eighth notes on the backbeat (beats 2 and 4) and a bass drum pattern of quarter notes on beats 1, 2, 3, and 4. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature.

Steve Winwood  
"Back In The  
High Life  
Again"

♩ = 83 bpm

41) Drum notation for Steve Winwood's "Back In The High Life Again". It features a 4/4 time signature with a snare drum pattern of eighth notes on the backbeat (beats 2 and 4) and a bass drum pattern of quarter notes on beats 1, 2, 3, and 4. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. Below the staff, the letters "R R R R" are written, indicating a specific drumming technique or rhythm.

David Lee Roth  
"I'm Just A  
Gigolo"

♩ = 123 bpm

42) Drum notation for David Lee Roth's "I'm Just A Gigolo". It features a 4/4 time signature with a snare drum pattern of eighth notes on the backbeat (beats 2 and 4) and a bass drum pattern of quarter notes on beats 1, 2, 3, and 4. The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. Above the staff, there are four groups of eighth notes, each with a bracket and a "3" above it, indicating a triplet.