

Methods & Mechanics Companion Book

by Todd Sucherman and Brad Schlueter



photo by Charles Stewart

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CREDITS

Methods & Mechanics Companion Book

by Todd Sucherman and Brad Schlueter

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ABOUT THE DISC



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RAVEN

TODD:

"Raven" is a song from a band I was in called The Falling Wallendas in Chicago back in the 1990s. The two records I did with them, *Falling Wallendas* and *Belittle* are two records that I'm fiercely proud of (and you can find them on the internet for pennies). But we thought this track would work for Taylor's record, and we outdid the original. Having Brian Wilson sing in the chorus was pretty sweet too! When originally working up the pattern, I listened to the bass line Scott Bennett was playing, turned off the snares, and started to try to find the right thing. The main form of the song is two bars of 6/8 and one bar of 9/8. This mostly-linear pattern developed with the hi-hat pumping eighth notes, with an alternating open-closed "over ride" that changed the feel every three bars due to the extra beats and the end of the phrases. The open "slosh" on the downbeats become the upbeats 3 bars later, and this continues back and forth through the song. There are a few subtle changes in the feel, with an extra bass drum note in the chorus and an added splash with the backbeat. The outro pattern changes to build with the song as it rides off into the sunset.

BRAD:

Though I was fortunate enough to see the Falling Wallendas perform back in the day, I had never been exactly sure how Todd played this interesting odd-time drum part. In the first two lines of the transcription you can see how the hi-hat splash pattern is displaced for each cycle of the pattern, and this greatly increases the coordination challenges of the piece. The song has several time signature changes occurring throughout that vary from the main form of 6/8, 6/8, and 9/8. Todd drops the snare wires and plays ride bell notes and splash cymbal accents along with his toms, and uses his tom rims for an unusual texture in this very percussive groove.



6 clicks out front (in minus-drums mix)

9 RAVEN 10

MINUS DRUMS

♩ = 132

Snares Off

Hi-Hat Ostinato continues...

R R RLRLRL R R RLRLRL R R RLRLRL R R RLRLRL RL RL

R R RLRLRL R R RLRLRL B R R BRLRL

R R BRLRL R R BRLRL rLR R BBR L

B R R R L

R *Hi-Hat Ostinato Resumes*

R R RLRLRL R R RLRLRL RR R BRLRL

34
 R R R B R R L R L R R R B R R L R L r L R R B B R R L

37
 R R B R R R L

40
 R B B B L R R R R B B B L R R R R B L R

44
Hi-Hat Ostinato Resumes R R R B R R L R L R L R B

47
 R R R B R R L R L R L R B

50
 R R R B R R L R L R L R B

53
 R R R B R R L R L R L R B

56
 R R R B R R L R L R L R B

59
 B R R R L R