

The Musical Staff:

This is where musical notation is written. Notes will appear on the lines or in the spaces of the staff. Notes can often appear above or below as well.



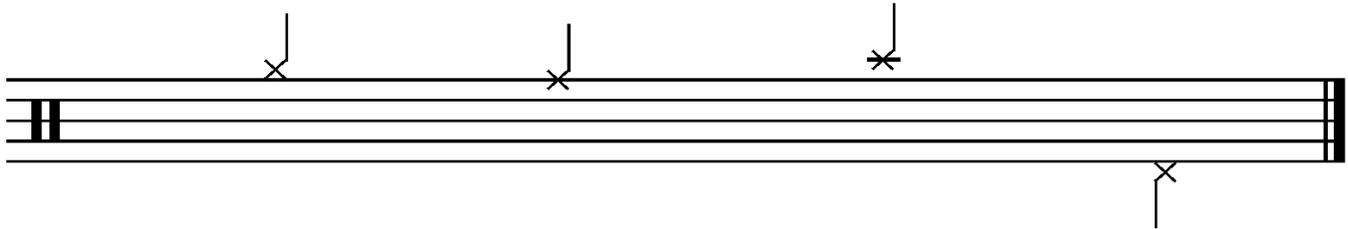
Cymbals:

Hi-Hats
(HH)

Ride Cymbal
(RC)

Crash Cymbal
(CR)

Hi-Hats (w/ pedal)



Drums:

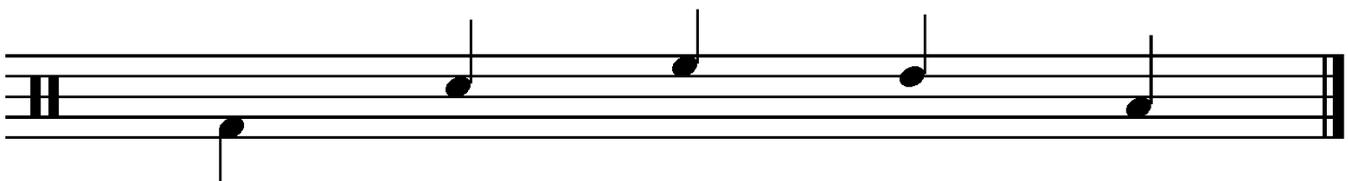
Bass Drum
(BD)

Snare Drum
(SD)

High Tom
(T1)

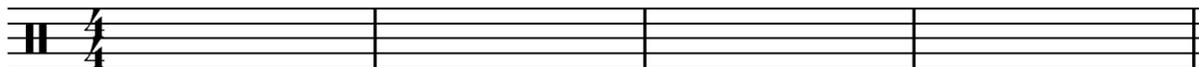
Middle Tom
(T2)

Floor Tom
(FT)



Bar Lines and Measures:

The vertical lines that separate the musical staff are called *bar lines*. The sections created by these lines are called *measures*. The barlines divide the staff below into 4 measures. Each measure is one cycle of 4 beats and contains the notes you are to play.



Time Signature:

The numbers at the beginning of a passage of music are called a *time signature*. They indicate the timing used in that passage of music and how it should be counted. Most of the lessons you will encounter as a beginner are in standard 4/4 time. It is counted: "one and two and three and four and".



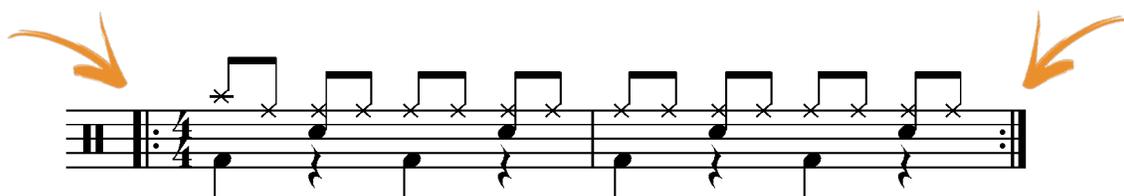
Repeat Signs and Brackets:

There are two kinds of repeats that you need to know.



This is a *repeat sign*. When you see one of these, it means that you play the previously notated measure again, note-for-note.

Repeat brackets are the double bar lines with a colon, which appear at the beginning and end of a portion of music that is intended to be repeated. All of the music within these brackets should be repeated. See example below.



Basic Rhythms:

You need a complete knowledge of rhythms to be a good drummer. Rhythms can be described simply as a *quantity of notes per beat*. This means that each beat (pulse) can be divided into one, two, three, four notes, and so on. Below is a legend of some of the basic rhythms you will encounter.



1/4 Note (Quarter Note): It is one note that is played on the beat (1, 2, 3, 4). Beside it is a 1/4 rest, indicating silence for the duration of a beat.



1/8th Notes (Eighth Notes): This rhythm is two notes per beat. When both notes are played they are joined by a beam.



Off-Beat 1/8th Note: The first note (on the beat) is not played and is replaced by an 1/8th rest. The second 1/8th note is written. These notes fall on the count of “and”.



1/16th Notes: (Sixteenth Notes): This rhythm is four notes per beat. These notes are joined by a double-beam when playing more than one 1/16th note in a beat.



The numbers at the beginning of any passage of music are called a Time Signature. The top number indicates how many beats are in each bar of music. The bottom number indicates what kind of note gets counted as a beat (4=1/4 notes or 8=1/8th notes).

The key to mastering rhythms is the understanding of how the timing you count relates to the notes you play.

Reading musical notation is an important part of learning any instrument. It is a tool that will help you learn, read and write your own musical ideas in the future. When you can follow notation for the drums, your practicing won't be limited to what you can remember.

For additional resources and lessons, please visit: simplifiedrummer.com.