

Theory for drummers

DRUM KIT NOTATION

Kick Snare HiHat Tom1 Tom2 Tom3 Crash Ride Rim click HiHat foot

*Some composers use slightly different notation, but this is a good start!

CLEFS

Treble clef **Bass clef** **Percussion clef**

(Xylophone) (Timpani) (Drum kit)

NOTE VALUES

Semibreve and rest
Whole note (4 counts)

Minim and rest
Half note (2 counts)

Crotchets and rests
Quarter note (1 count)

Quavers and rests
Eighth note (1/2 count)

Semiquavers and rests
Sixteenth note (1/4 count)

TIME SIGNATURES

- 2** Top number = how many counts
4 Bottom number = what type of count

Four crotchet counts per bar

Three crotchet counts per bar

Six quaver counts per bar

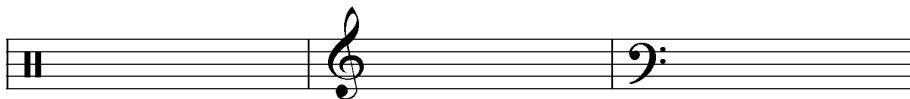
DYNAMIC MARKINGS

- pp* - pianissimo (very soft)
p - piano (soft)
mp - mezzo piano (moderately soft)
mf - mezzo forte (moderately loud)
f - forte (loud)
ff - fortissimo (very loud)

Accent (louder note)

Crescendo **Decrescendo**
(gradually get louder / softer)

Name and draw 2 more of each clef:



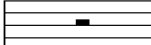
 This is a group of two . Draw a single one here

Is a 'whole note' a *semibreve* or a *semiquaver*?

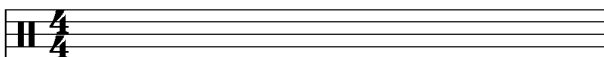
How many *crotchets* fit in the same space as a *minim*?

Circle the four *semiquavers* -  or 

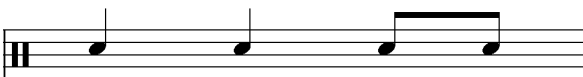
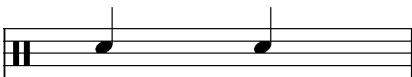
Draw the following: Quaver rest Crotchet rest

Is this a *minim* or a *semibreve* rest? 

Write a *minim*, a *crotchet* and two *quavers* in the snare space on the bar below:



Write the correct time signatures on the bars below:



Match the definitions with the dynamic markings: Write the volumes that these symbols indicate:

mp

loud

mf -

f

very soft

p -

ff

very loud

What is this called, and what does it mean?

pp

moderately soft

Tied and dotted notes

A tie lengthens the value of the first note by the value any notes it is tied to.

A dot lengthens a note (or rest) by half it's original value. The notes and rests in brackets are there just so that the bars add up.

Play through the following exercise containing tied and dotted notes:

A 'double dot' adds half plus a quarter of the note's original value!
In this case: ♩ + ♩ + ♩

Breakdown of 16th note groups

1 e + a 1 e + a 1 e + a

1 e + a 1 e + a 1 e + a

1 e + a 1 e + a 1 e + a

1 e + a 1 e + a

1 e + a 1 e + a 1 e + a

1 e + a 1 e + a 1 e + a

1 e + a 1 e + a 1 e + a

1 e + a 1 e + a 1 e + a

1 e + a 1 e + a 1 e + a

1 e + a 1 e + a

1 e + a 1 e + a

Reading 'syncopated' notation

"On the beat" rhythm:

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

"Off the beat" rhythm:

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Syncopated rhythm:

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Notation with rests:

With tied notes:

Syncopated notation:

1

2

3

4

5

6

7