

DRUM SET NOTATION KEY FOR WWW.THEFUTUREOFDRUMCHARTS.COM

CHARTS, TRANSCRIPTIONS AND ADVANCED DRUM SET LESSON PDF FILES

ON THE FOLLOWING 3 PAGES YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION ON THE NOTATIONAL CONVENTIONS I HAVE USED TO WRITE OUT DRUM SET MUSIC IN MY CHARTS, TRANSCRIPTIONS AND ADVANCED DRUM SET LESSON PDF FILES. MY APPROACH TO DRUM SET NOTATION FOLLOWS COMMONLY PRACTICED STANDARDIZED DRUM SET NOTATION CONVENTIONS. HOWEVER, I DO EMPLOY SOME DIFFERENCES IN 1 BASIC TYPE OF SITUATION. I BREAK THE RULES OF STANDARDIZED DRUM SET NOTATION IF WRITING A PARTICULAR DRUM SET PART WITH STANDARDIZED DRUM SET NOTATION WOULD RESULT IN A DRUM PART THAT IS CLUTTERED AND UNPRACTICAL TO READ DUE TO SPACING ISSUES IN THE STAFF. RATHER THAN CHANGE THE PART, I USUALLY CHANGE THE NOTATIONAL APPROACH IN THESE CASES. I BREAK THE STANDARDIZED DRUM SET NOTATION RULES ONLY AS MUCH AS IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO MAKE THE PART LESS CLUTTERED AND EASIER TO READ. FOR EXAMPLE, I WILL OCCASIONALLY MOVE BASS DRUM 1 AND BASS DRUM 2 DOWN ONE SEMI TONE EACH (ONE LINE OR SPACE IN THE STAFF) IF THERE ARE A LOT OF LAYERED FLOOR TOM AND BASS DRUM NOTES HAPPENING AT THE SAME TIME. BY DOING THIS I CAN CREATE SOME SPACE BETWEEN THE BASS DRUM AND FLOOR TOM NOTES, AVOID CLUTTERED NOTATION AND MAKE THE PART EASIER TO READ. IN MOST CASES, WHEN I HAVE BROKEN THE RULES OF STANDARDIZED DRUM SET NOTATION, A MARKING WILL BE MADE IN THE PART WHEN A NOTATIONAL CHANGE IS MADE AND WHEN THAT NOTATIONAL CHANGE IS RETURNED TO NORMAL. A WRITTEN NOTE IS ALSO MADE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CHART TO INDICATE THAT THERE WILL BE A NOTATIONAL CHANGE MADE DURING THE CHART AND WHAT KIND OF CHANGE IT WILL BE. I WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO USE OTHER SOURCES TO DO FURTHER STUDY OF STANDARDIZED DRUM SET NOTATION.

DRUMS

SNARE DRUM (S.D.)

SNARE DRUM BUZZ STROKE
(PRESS ROLL STROKE)

BACK TOMS (OR MOUNTED TOMS, TOM-TOMS ETC.)

HIGHEST PITCH TO LOWEST PITCH (FROM TOP TO BOTTOM)

DRUM SET CLEF

"STICK SHOT"
PRESS THE TIP OF ONE STICK
AGAINST THE SNARE DRUM HEAD
AND HIT THAT STICK WITH THE OTHER STICK

FLOOR TOMS (F.T.)

3 HIGHEST PITCH TO LOWEST PITCH (FROM TOP TO BOTTOM)

CROSS STICK (C.S.) ON SNARE DRUM

LAY THE STICK ACROSS THE HEAD OF THE SNARE DRUM AND RIM
AND PLAY A CLICK SOUND ON THE RIM OF THE SNARE DRUM

BASS DRUMS (B.D.) OR "KICK DRUMS"

5 BASS DRUMS 1 AND 2 ARE USUALLY PLAYED
WITH OPPOSITE FEET ON 2 DIFFERENT PEDALS

OCCASIONALLY WRITTEN THIS WAY TO
MAKE ROOM FOR FLOOR TOM NOTES

The notation shows a single staff with four notes. The first note is on the first line and is labeled 'BASS DRUM 1'. The second note is on the first space and is labeled 'BASS DRUM 2'. The third note is on the first line and is labeled 'B.D. 1'. The fourth note is on the first space and is labeled 'B.D. 2'. The notes are written in a way that they are vertically aligned with the first and second notes, respectively, to save space.

HI HAT (H.H.)

THE HI HAT IS ASSUMED TO BE CLOSED IF THERE ARE NO MARKINGS INDICATING OTHERWISE

OPENED HI HAT

HIT HI HAT WITH STICK WHILE IT IS OPEN (OPEN WITH PEDAL)

CLOSED HI HAT

HIT HI HAT WITH STICK WHILE IT IS CLOSED (CLOSE WITH PEDAL)
THIS IS USUALLY ONLY INDICATED AFTER AN OPEN HI HAT HAS RECENTLY BEEN NOTATED (OR AS A COURTESY MARKING)

CLOSED HI HAT PLAYED WITH STICK ETC..

PLAY HI HAT WITH THE PEDAL

SLIGHTLY OPENED HI HATS OR

"SPASH" THE 2 HI HAT CYMBALS TOGETHER WITH THE PEDAL AND LET RING

CLOSE THE HI HAT WITH THE PEDAL (BASICALLY PLAYING A CLOSED NOTE ON THE HI HAT PEDAL)

RIDE CYMBAL

10 RIDE CYMBAL BODY

BELL OF RIDE CYMBAL

CRASH CYMBALS

THE SHORT FORM (CYM.) CAN BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER WORD AS A SHORT FORM INDICATOR FOR ANY TYPE OF CYMBAL (FOR EXAMPLE, RIVET CYM.)

12 CRASH CYMBAL

13 SPLASH CYMBAL

CHINA CYMBAL

OTHER CYMBALS (CYM.)

CERTAIN SPECIALTY CYMBALS WILL NOT NECESSARILY BE GIVEN A CONSISTANT SPECIFIED LINE OR SPACE IN THE STAFF AND WILL BE WRITTEN ON A LINE NORMALLY OCCUPIED BY ANOTHER DRUM OR CYMBAL. IN THIS CASE, THE SPECIFIC TYPE OF CYMBAL WILL BE WRITTEN IN WRITNG WITH THE SHORT FORM (CYM.) FOLLOWING THE NAME. CHECK THE EXAMPLE IN THE BAR BELOW

15 RIVET CYM.

CHOKED CYMBALS

HIT CYMBAL AND THEN IMMEDIATELY GRAB IT TO STOP IT FROM RINGING

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SPECIFIED LENGTH OF SUSTAIN BEFORE CYMBAL IS CHOKE

EXAMPLE BELOW: HIT CRASH ON BEAT 1 AND WAIT UNTIL BEAT 2 TO CHOKE THE CYMBAL

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LET CYMBALS RING (APPLIES TO ALL CYMBALS EXCEPT THE HI HAT)

IF THERE ARE NO MARKINGS INDICATING OTHERWISE, IT IS ASSUMED THAT ALL CYMBALS ARE ALLOWED TO RING FOR THEIR FULL SUSTAIN (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE HI HAT)

NORMALLY NOTATED THIS WAY

CAN BE NOTATED ANY OF THESE WAYS HOWEVER

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GHOSTED NOTES CAN APPLY TO ANY DRUM, CYMBAL OR PERCUSSION INSTRUMENT

20

PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS ON THE DRUM SET

SOMETIMES COWBELL AND WOODBLOCK NOTES ARE WRITTEN INSIDE THE STAFF. HOWEVER, I HAVE FOUND IT TO BE MORE PRACTICAL TO WRITE THEM WHERE THE HI HAT OR RIDE CYMBAL WOULD NORMALLY BE WRITTEN AND USE A DIFFERENT NOTE SYMBOL.

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