



Essential Video Collection

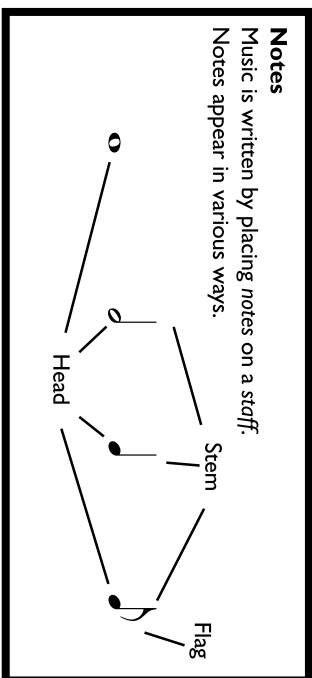
This booklet will help prepare you to get the most out of your video. It will introduce drum notation, time signatures, and the basics of reading standard music notation. All of us at the National Guitar Workshop and Alfred wish you lots of fun and fulfillment as you learn to play the drums.

Time and Counting

Our first order of business is to understand how rhythm is organized in drum music.

Notes

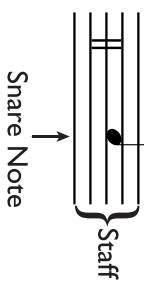
Music is written by placing notes on a staff.
Notes appear in various ways.



Music Notation

The Drum Staff and Clef

Drum Clef



The staff, which is read from left to right, has five lines and four spaces. At the beginning of the staff is a clef. Drum music is written in a percussion or drum clef, which is simply two lines indicating the start of the staff and no definite pitch.





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Time Signatures

Every piece of music has a pair of numbers at the beginning, called *time signatures*, that tell us how to count time. The top number represents the number of beats per measure. The bottom number represents the type of note receiving one count.

$\frac{4}{4}$ = Four beats per measure
 $\frac{4}{4}$ = A quarter note \downarrow equals one beat

Sometimes a **C** is written in place of $\frac{4}{4}$ time. $\frac{4}{4}$ is often called *common time*.

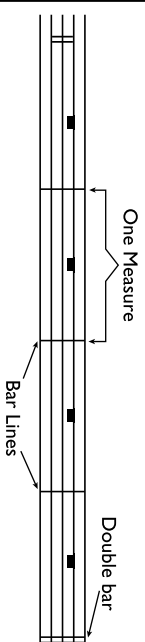
$\frac{3}{4}$ = Three beats per measure
 $\frac{4}{4}$ = A quarter note \downarrow equals one beat

$\frac{6}{8}$ = Six beats per measure
 $\frac{8}{8}$ = An eighth note \downarrow equals one beat

Music Notation: Time

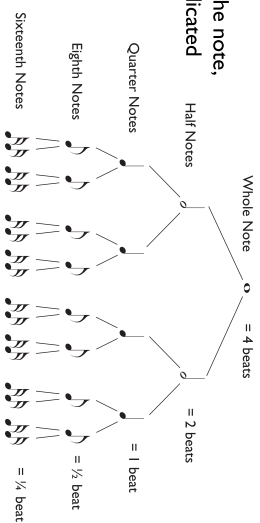
Measures and Bar Lines

The staff is divided by vertical lines called *bar lines*. The space between two bar lines is called a *measure*. Measures divide music into groups of beats. A beat is an equal division of time. Beats are the basic pulse behind music. A *double bar* marks the end of a section or example.



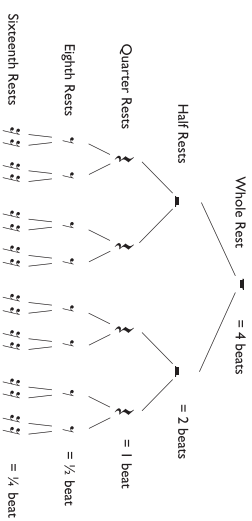
Note Values

The duration of the note, or its value, is indicated by its shape.



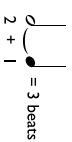
Rest Values

Every note value has a corresponding rest. A rest indicates silence. A whole rest indicates four beats of silence, a half rest is two beats of silence, etc.



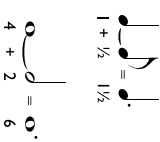
Ties

When notes are *tied*, the second note is not struck. Rather, its value is added to that of the first note. So, a half note tied to a quarter note equals three beats.



Dots

A dot increases the length of a note by one half of its original value. For instance, a half note equals two beats. Half of its value is one beat (a quarter note). So, a dotted half note equals three beats (2 + 1 = 3). A dotted half note is equal to a half note tied to a quarter note.





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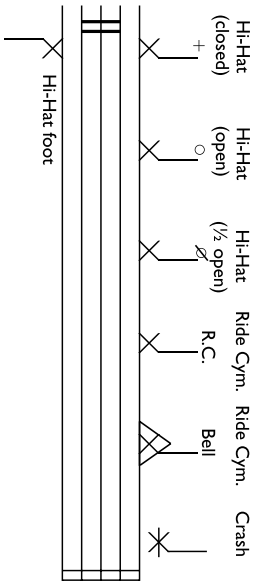
The Key to Drum Notation

Different lines and spaces on the staff designate different drums. Sometimes, the traditional round noteheads are substituted with 'x's or triangles to show cymbal hits.

Here are the notes for different drums in the drum set:



Here are the notes for different cymbals in the drum set:



Beaming
Notes that are less than one beat in duration are often beamed together. Notice the counting numbers: since there are four sixteenth notes in a beat, they are counted "1 e & a, 2 e & a," etc.

Beamed eighth notes

1 e & a 2 e & a 3 e & a 4 e & a

Beamed sixteenth notes

1 e & a 2 e & a

Repeat Signs

Repeat. Return to the beginning or the nearest and play again.

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