

THIS LESSON IS EXCERPTED FROM

A FRESH APPROACH TO THE
DRUMSET



A DRUMMER'S GUIDE TO:

Rock Beats and Fills • Hand & Foot Technique • Coordination and Independence • Reading Music •
Understanding Song Construction • R&B, Jazz & Latin Styles and more!

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BY
MARK WESSELS

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ABOUT THIS LESSON:

LESSON 3 is designed for very beginning players. After the basics of grip, stroke and foot technique are developed, the student works on fundamental independence (between right hand hi-hat quarters and left hand snare or bass drum notes). A play-along track for the beginning independence exercises is provided to make the process of learning this exercise fun!

Once you've mastered that basic coordination, you're ready to learn your first rock beat! The play-along tracks included are "with drums" (helpful to keep time if you're just starting out) and "without drums" (great if you want to test your ability to play in a steady tempo – or if you've been playing a while and want to play more complicated beats along with the tune.

The play-along tracks in "A Fresh Approach to the Drumset" are written and recorded by Donny Gruendler and Christian Lundberg. I think you'll love playing along with some REAL charts with REAL musicians as you work through the book ... there's no cheesy midi files or "elevator-music" here!

Finally, Lesson 3 finishes up with some basic notation and a note value exercise that you should learn if you're just beginning to read music. Included in this PDF is a page from the Reading Appendix, which will give you more practice with reading quarter, half and whole note rhythms.

I hope you enjoy this lesson. Watch for more excerpts from my book coming soon!

All the Best,

Mark Wessels

Right Hand Hi-Hat

To play the hi-hat with the right hand, start by depressing the pedal so the hi-hat cymbals are in the "closed" position. When you play with the right hand on the hi-hat, keep the elbow and shoulder relaxed.

The hi-hat can be played with the tip or the shaft of the stick – each creates a unique sound (the tip is used for lighter sounds, the shaft for heavier sounds). Most drummers play "right-over-left" on hi-hat/snare patterns.



Beginning Independence



Start by counting "1, 2, 3, 4" out loud while you play the top part (x) on the hi-hat, then add your left hand on the snare drum playing the bottom notes.

Next, try the bottom notes on the bass drum instead of snare drum. The play-along track alternates between the two: 4 times with hi-hat/snare, then 4 times hi-hat/bass.

1

X	X	X	X
●			
"1"	"2"	"3"	"4"

2

X	X	X	X
		●	
"1"	"2"	"3"	"4"

3

X	X	X	X
●		●	
"1"	"2"	"3"	"4"

4

X	X	X	X
	●		●
"1"	"2"	"3"	"4"

5

X	X	X	X
●	●	●	
"1"	"2"	"3"	"4"

6

X	X	X	X
●		●	●
"1"	"2"	"3"	"4"

Extra PRACTICE

For more practice on these exercises, you can split the parts between the feet – playing the top line with the left foot hi-hat. Then try playing with any combination of hands and feet: including both hands and both feet!

"ROCK STAR"



This rock beat is easy to learn – and it's been played by some great drummers on countless hit records! The right hand will play steady beats on all four counts while you alternate between bass drum and snare drum beats.

Start slowly and count out loud as you play. Practice the groove over and over until you can play with steady relaxed strokes. After you can get a consistent sound and feel, try playing it with the play-along track.

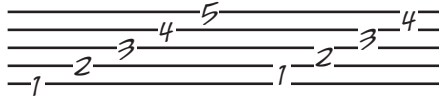
RH HI-HAT	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
LH SNARE		●		●		●		●	
BASS DRUM	●		●		●		●		
Count:	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	

WHAT you play is not as important as HOW you play it. Even a simple groove like this, played in perfect time with conviction and a great sound can be all that a song needs to make the band sound great!



Music Notation Basics

Music is written on a **STAFF**



The staff has 5 lines and 4 spaces.



The **PERCUSSION CLEF** tells you that the notes on the staff are for non-pitched instruments.

Note Values

A **WHOLE NOTE** is equal to FOUR COUNTS:



A **HALF NOTE** is equal to TWO COUNTS:



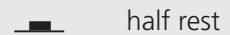
A **QUARTER NOTE** is equal to ONE COUNT:



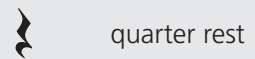
All note values have a corresponding rest:



whole rest

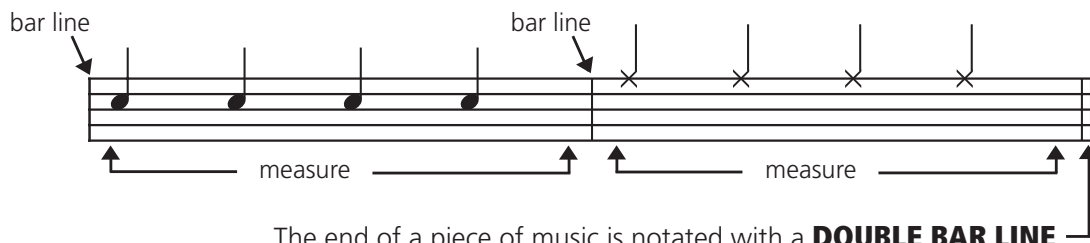


half rest



quarter rest

BAR LINES separate notes into equal numbers of beats. A **MEASURE** is the space between bar lines.



The end of a piece of music is notated with a **DOUBLE BAR LINE**

A **TIME SIGNATURE** tells you how many beats belong in a measure and what kind of note receives one beat.



← There are FOUR BEATS in a measure

← The QUARTER NOTE receives one beat

Note Value Exercise



Play steady quarter note beats in the bass drum (bottom notes) while you play the whole, half and quarter note exercise on the snare (top notes). Count out loud while you play, **SUBDIVIDING** each beat by saying "and" between the numbers.



When you reach the **REPEAT SIGN**, repeat back to the beginning.



APPENDIX

Reading

ISOLATED RHYTHMS

A series of 16 rhythmic patterns labeled A through P, each on a single staff in 4/4 time. The patterns are as follows:

- A: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter
- B: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter rest
- C: Quarter, quarter, quarter rest, quarter
- D: Quarter, quarter rest, quarter, quarter rest
- E: Quarter rest, quarter, quarter rest, quarter
- F: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter
- G: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter
- H: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter
- I: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter rest
- J: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter
- K: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter
- L: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter
- M: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter
- N: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter
- O: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter
- P: Quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter

READING EXERCISE

A series of three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, each containing four measures. The notation includes quarter notes, quarter rests, and half notes.

2 SURFACE READING

A series of four staves of musical notation in 4/4 time, each containing four measures. The notation includes quarter notes, quarter rests, and half notes.

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