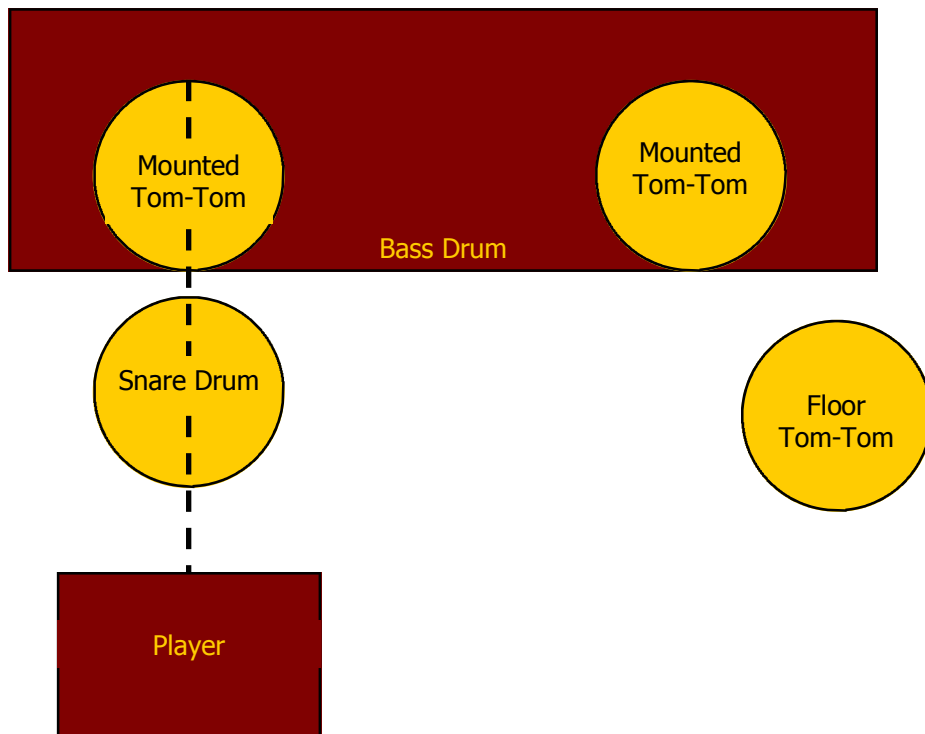


Getting Started

Body Position

- **Always move the instrument to accommodate the body and not the body to accommodate the instrument.**
- While sitting on the drum throne with legs and feet evenly spread, arrange the bass drum, hi-hat and snare drum.
- Add the remainder of the set.
- Sit facing forward so that you look across the snare drum and mounted tom-toms.



Correct Posture Includes:

- A comfortable position on the drum throne
- Relaxed limbs & body
- Thighs are parallel to the ground
- Back is straight

Correct Posture Does Not Include:

- Leaning against the band room wall
- Slouching
- Twisting head or shoulders
- Contortions of face or mouth

Getting Started

Recommended Contents of Your Stick Bag:

5A General Snare Drumsticks with nylon tip

7A Jazz Snare Drumsticks

5B Rock Snare Drumsticks

Wire or Nylon Brushes



Acorn-shaped nylon tip



Tear-drop-shaped wooden tip



Tear-drop-shaped wooden tip
Thicker shaft than 5AN or 7A



Technical Development



The Hands

Hand technique is not new to the drum set student. Before beginning to play the drum set, students should already have a base of knowledge that includes rudimental drumming. The continued practice of the 40 PAS International Drum Rudiments will develop hand technique.

The Feet

Try the following warm-up exercises daily:



B.D.
H.H.

B.D.
or
H.H.

♩ = 60

3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3

Technical Development


Coordinating the Hands and Feet

Practice the following exercises to develop interdependence of the hands and feet.

Right Foot & Left Hand

S.D. 
B.D. 

S.D. 
B.D. 

S.D. 
B.D. 

S.D. 
B.D. 

S.D. 
B.D. 

S.D. 
B.D. 

Technical Development

Coordinating the Hands and Feet Continued

Practice the following exercises to develop interdependence of the hands and feet.

Left Foot & Right Hand

Musical exercise 1: S.D. (Right Hand) and H.H. (Left Foot) notation. The S.D. staff contains a continuous eighth-note pattern. The H.H. staff contains a corresponding eighth-note pattern represented by 'x' marks. The exercise consists of 8 measures.

Musical exercise 2: S.D. (Right Hand) and H.H. (Left Foot) notation. The S.D. staff features eighth notes with accents (>). The H.H. staff features eighth notes represented by 'x' marks. The exercise consists of 8 measures.

Musical exercise 3: S.D. (Right Hand) and H.H. (Left Foot) notation. The S.D. staff features sixteenth notes with accents (>). The H.H. staff features eighth notes represented by 'x' marks. The exercise consists of 8 measures.

Musical exercise 4: S.D. (Right Hand) and H.H. (Left Foot) notation. The S.D. staff features sixteenth notes with accents (>). The H.H. staff features eighth notes represented by 'x' marks. The exercise consists of 8 measures.

Musical exercise 5: S.D. (Right Hand) and H.H. (Left Foot) notation. The S.D. staff features sixteenth notes with accents (>). The H.H. staff features eighth notes represented by 'x' marks. The exercise consists of 8 measures.

Musical exercise 6: S.D. (Right Hand) and H.H. (Left Foot) notation. The S.D. staff features sixteenth notes with accents (>). The H.H. staff features eighth notes represented by 'x' marks. The exercise consists of 8 measures.

Basic Beats: Swing

The Basic Swing Beat

Musical notation for the basic swing beat on three drums: Ride, Snare Drum (S.D.), and Hi-Hat (H.H.). The notation is in 4/4 time and shows a full 8-measure phrase. The Ride cymbal plays a consistent pattern of quarter notes. The Snare Drum plays a backbeat on beats 2 and 4. The Hi-Hat plays a steady eighth-note pattern.

Start with the beat keeper, the ride cymbal, whose pattern looks like this but...

Musical notation for the ride cymbal pattern, showing a steady eighth-note pattern on a single staff.

...is interpreted like this.

Musical notation for the interpreted ride cymbal pattern, showing a steady eighth-note pattern with accents (marked with 's') on the eighth notes of each measure.

Add the hi-hat to the ride cymbal.

Musical notation for the ride cymbal and hi-hat pattern, showing the ride cymbal pattern on the top staff and the hi-hat pattern on the bottom staff.

Finally, add the snare drum.

Musical notation for the complete basic swing beat, showing the ride cymbal, snare drum, and hi-hat patterns on three staves.

Basic Beats: Swing

The basic swing beat may also appear like this...

Musical notation for a basic swing beat variation 1. It features four staves: Ride Cymbal (Ride), Snare Drum (S.D.), Bass Drum (B.D.), and Hi-Hat (H.H.). The notation is in 4/4 time and shows a consistent pattern of eighth notes on the ride cymbal and bass drum, with a snare drum playing on the second and fourth beats. The hi-hat is closed throughout.

or this...

Musical notation for a basic swing beat variation 2. It features four staves: Ride Cymbal (Ride), Snare Drum (S.D.), Bass Drum (B.D.), and Hi-Hat (H.H.). The notation is in 4/4 time and shows a consistent pattern of eighth notes on the ride cymbal and bass drum, with a snare drum playing on the second and fourth beats. The hi-hat is closed throughout. There are 's' symbols above the ride cymbal staff, indicating a specific articulation or feel.

or this.

Musical notation for a basic swing beat variation 3. It features four staves: Ride Cymbal (Ride), Snare Drum (S.D.), Bass Drum (B.D.), and Hi-Hat (H.H.). The notation is in 4/4 time and shows a consistent pattern of eighth notes on the ride cymbal and bass drum, with a snare drum playing on the second and fourth beats. The hi-hat is closed throughout.

For a challenge, try the jazz beat with snare drum improvisation.

Musical notation for a jazz beat with snare drum improvisation. It features four staves: Ride Cymbal (Ride), Snare Drum (S.D.), Bass Drum (B.D.), and Hi-Hat (H.H.). The notation is in 4/4 time and shows a consistent pattern of eighth notes on the ride cymbal and bass drum, with a snare drum playing on the second and fourth beats. The hi-hat is closed throughout. The snare drum part includes improvisation, indicated by 'x' marks and a 'z' symbol.

Feathering the Bass Drum

Playing the bass drum softly on all four beats is referred to as "feathering." When feathering, the bass drum is played lightly and almost felt rather than heard. Always play the bass drum feathered unless playing accents.

REMEMBER: Jazz = 80% Ride Cymbal & Hi-Hat + 20% S.D. & B.D.

Basic Beats: Rock

The Basic Rock Beat

Musical notation for the basic rock beat in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves: H.H. (Hi-Hat), S.D. (Snare Drum), and B.D. (Bass Drum). The H.H. staff shows a continuous eighth-note pattern with 'x' marks above each note. The S.D. staff shows a pattern of quarter notes on the 2nd and 4th beats. The B.D. staff shows a pattern of quarter notes on the 1st and 3rd beats.

Start with the beat keeper-the bass drum.

Musical notation for the basic rock beat in 4/4 time, focusing on the bass drum. It consists of one staff: B.D. (Bass Drum). The staff shows a pattern of quarter notes on the 1st and 3rd beats, with rests on the 2nd and 4th beats.

Add the snare drum with the left hand.

Musical notation for the basic rock beat in 4/4 time, adding the snare drum. It consists of two staves: S.D. (Snare Drum) and B.D. (Bass Drum). The S.D. staff shows a pattern of quarter notes on the 2nd and 4th beats, with rests on the 1st and 3rd beats. The B.D. staff shows a pattern of quarter notes on the 1st and 3rd beats, with rests on the 2nd and 4th beats.

Add the hi-hat with the right hand (cross over left hand).

Musical notation for the basic rock beat in 4/4 time, adding the hi-hat. It consists of three staves: H.H. (Hi-Hat), S.D. (Snare Drum), and B.D. (Bass Drum). The H.H. staff shows a continuous eighth-note pattern with 'x' marks above each note. The S.D. staff shows a pattern of quarter notes on the 2nd and 4th beats, with rests on the 1st and 3rd beats. The B.D. staff shows a pattern of quarter notes on the 1st and 3rd beats, with rests on the 2nd and 4th beats.

Once you have mastered the basic rock groove with a quarter-note feel, try the groove with an eighth-note feel.

Musical notation for the basic rock beat in 4/4 time, with an eighth-note feel. It consists of three staves: H.H. (Hi-Hat), S.D. (Snare Drum), and B.D. (Bass Drum). The H.H. staff shows a continuous eighth-note pattern with 'x' marks above each note. The S.D. staff shows a pattern of quarter notes on the 2nd and 4th beats, with rests on the 1st and 3rd beats. The B.D. staff shows a pattern of quarter notes on the 1st and 3rd beats, with rests on the 2nd and 4th beats.

Basic Beats: Rock

Common variations of the rock groove with an eighth-note feel:

Musical notation for a rock groove with an eighth-note feel. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves: H.H. (Hi-Hat), S.D. (Snare Drum), and B.D. (Bass Drum). The H.H. part features a continuous eighth-note pattern of 'x' marks. The S.D. part has a pattern of quarter notes: quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth. The B.D. part has a pattern of quarter notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter.

Musical notation for a rock groove with an eighth-note feel. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves: H.H. (Hi-Hat), S.D. (Snare Drum), and B.D. (Bass Drum). The H.H. part features a continuous eighth-note pattern of 'x' marks. The S.D. part has a pattern of quarter notes: quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth. The B.D. part has a pattern of quarter notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter.

Once you have mastered the basic rock groove with an eighth-note feel, try the groove with a sixteenth-note feel. Alternate hands on the hi-hat.

Musical notation for a rock groove with a sixteenth-note feel. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves: H.H. (Hi-Hat), S.D. (Snare Drum), and B.D. (Bass Drum). The H.H. part features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern of 'x' marks. The S.D. part has a pattern of quarter notes: quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth. The B.D. part has a pattern of quarter notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter.

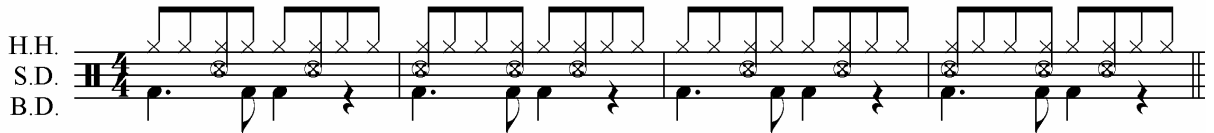
Feeling ambitious? Try the basic rock groove with fills.

Musical notation for a rock groove with fills. The notation is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves: H.H. (Hi-Hat), S.T. (Snare Tom), S.D. (Snare Drum), and B.D. (Bass Drum). The H.H. part features a continuous eighth-note pattern of 'x' marks. The S.T. part has a pattern of quarter notes: quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth, quarter, eighth. The S.D. part has a pattern of quarter notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. The B.D. part has a pattern of quarter notes: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter.

REMEMBER: Rock = 80% S.D. & B.D.+ 20% Ride Cymbal & Hi-Hat

Basic Beats: Latin

Bossa Nova



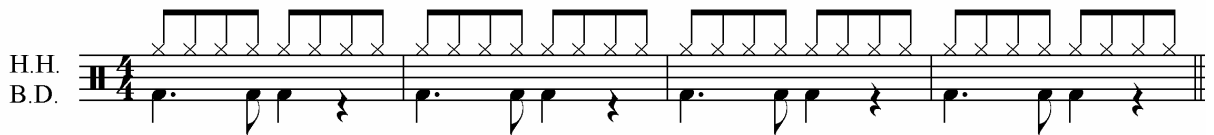
Musical notation for Bossa Nova drum set in 4/4 time. The notation includes three staves: H.H. (Hi-Hat), S.D. (Snare Drum), and B.D. (Bass Drum). The Hi-Hat part consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern. The Snare Drum part has a pattern of quarter notes and quarter rests. The Bass Drum part has a pattern of quarter notes and quarter rests.

Start with the bass drum.



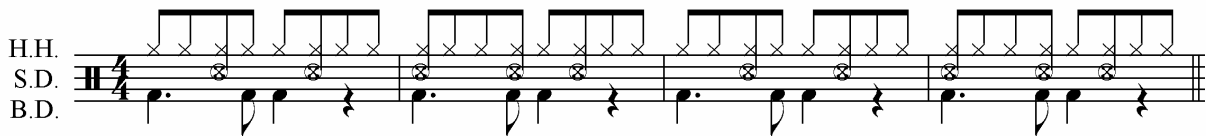
Musical notation for Bossa Nova bass drum in 4/4 time. The notation shows a single staff for B.D. (Bass Drum) with a pattern of quarter notes and quarter rests.

Add the hi-hat with hand.



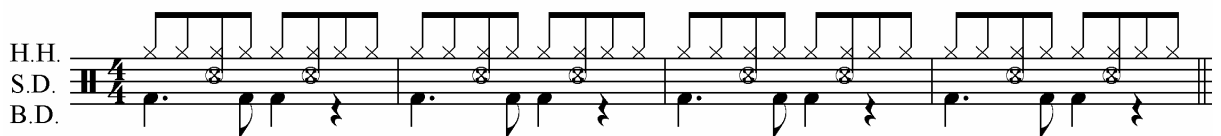
Musical notation for Bossa Nova drum set in 4/4 time, including Hi-Hat and Bass Drum. The Hi-Hat part consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern. The Bass Drum part has a pattern of quarter notes and quarter rests.

Add the snare rim knock.



Musical notation for Bossa Nova drum set in 4/4 time, including Hi-Hat, Snare Drum, and Bass Drum. The Hi-Hat part consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern. The Snare Drum part has a pattern of quarter notes and quarter rests. The Bass Drum part has a pattern of quarter notes and quarter rests.

If necessary, try the "Cheater" Bossa, which is a simplified version of a Bossa Nova beat.

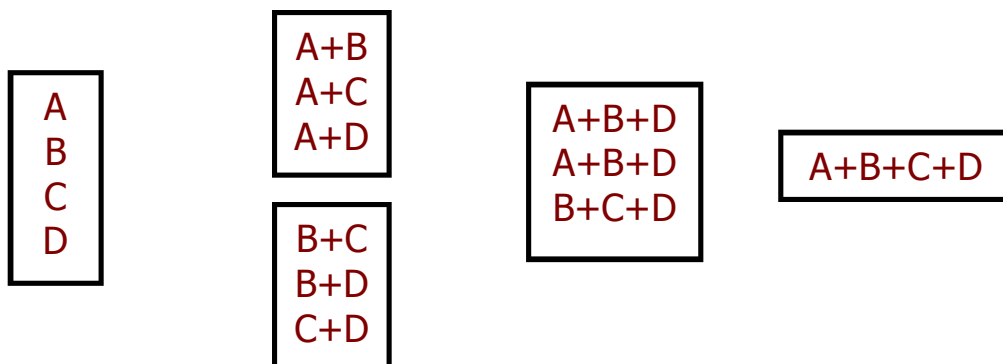


Musical notation for "Cheater" Bossa drum set in 4/4 time. The notation includes three staves: H.H. (Hi-Hat), S.D. (Snare Drum), and B.D. (Bass Drum). The Hi-Hat part consists of a continuous eighth-note pattern. The Snare Drum part has a pattern of quarter notes and quarter rests. The Bass Drum part has a pattern of quarter notes and quarter rests.

Basic Beats: Practicing

Alternate Practice Technique

Instead of layering the different components of the beat, try mixing the components up. For example, look at a basic rock groove. If the bass drum is line A, the snare drum is line B, the hi-hat is line C and the small tom is line D, you could practice the following combinations:



Accents & Kicks

Accents

Everyone in a jazz band has to play accents. Your job on drum set is a little more complicated, because not only do you have to play accents, you have to keep the beat going at the same time. Practice the following exercise while maintaining each of the basic beats. Play each accent first on the bass drum, then ride cymbal, hi-hat, and tom-toms, using different limbs. Use of a metronome will aid you greatly.

The image displays four staves of musical notation, each representing a different drum part in a 4-beat exercise. The notation uses standard drum symbols: a vertical line for the bass drum, a vertical line with a flag for the hi-hat, a vertical line with a triangle for the ride cymbal, and a vertical line with a circle for the tom-tom. The exercise is divided into two 2-beat phrases, each with four measures. The first phrase starts with an accent on the first beat, and the second phrase starts with an accent on the second beat. The notation is as follows:

- Staff 1 (Bass Drum):** Measure 1: / / / /; Measure 2: > / / / /; Measure 3: / / / /; Measure 4: / / / /.
- Staff 2 (Hi-hat):** Measure 1: / / / /; Measure 2: / / / /; Measure 3: / / / /; Measure 4: / / / /.
- Staff 3 (Ride Cymbal):** Measure 1: / / / /; Measure 2: / / / /; Measure 3: / / / /; Measure 4: / / / /.
- Staff 4 (Tom-tom):** Measure 1: / / / /; Measure 2: / / / /; Measure 3: / / / /; Measure 4: / / / /.

Accents & Kicks

Kicks

Often in jazz band, the ensemble will play syncopated rhythms called kicks. A kick can also be described as accents of more than one note played by the band. As a drummer you can make these kicks easier for the band if you play a single note on the beat just preceding the ensemble entrance. This shows the band where the beat is and helps them enter solidly. This is called a set-up. Set-ups are not written on your music. Only by listening can you determine when to play a set-up. Practice of the following examples will get you started.

Band

Ride
S.D.
B.D.

Band

Ride
S.D.
B.D.

Band

Ride
S.D.
B.D.