

Drumkit Notation Key

Compiled by: N. Thompson

Cymbals

Crash Splash/Crash 2 China/Crash 3 Ride Ride Bell Ride Bell (ver 2) Hi Hat Open Hi Hat Closed Hi Hat Hi Hat foot w/ foot splash

Abr: Cr. cym Spl. cym FX China R.C. Bell Dome H.H. Open H.H.

Drums

Snare Drum Snare Ghost Note Sn. Ghost Note Cross Stick or Rim Click Bass Drum or Kick Drum Tom-Toms (Toms) (Floor Toms)

S.D. Sn.Dr. B.D. B.D.(2) Left T.T. F.T.

Effects

Cymbal Roll Snare Roll Flam Buzz Stroke Cymbal Choke (Choke) Tom Rims

N.B.: In general, note stems face downward when they are played by the feet and upward when they are played by the hands. However, it is possible to combine all the members together in as a kind of percussive "chord." This method is especially useful for writing beats and is commonly used in *Modern Drummer* magazine.

Sample Beats

"Walk This Way" - Aerosmith "I Got You (I Feel Good)" - James Brown

"La Bamba" - Ritchie Valens "One" - Metallica

6 6 6 6

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2

"Mack The Knife" - Bobby Darin

"Californication" - Red Hot Chili Peppers

Swing

Rock

Musical notation for two drum patterns. The first pattern, labeled 'Swing', is for 'Mack The Knife' and features a steady eighth-note pattern with occasional accents and a 'z' symbol. The second pattern, labeled 'Rock', is for 'Californication' and features a more complex pattern with accents, a triplet of eighth notes, and a '3' symbol.

"She Loves You" - The Beatles

Musical notation for 'She Loves You' by The Beatles, showing a drum pattern with accents, a repeat sign, and a triplet of eighth notes.

Sample Drum Fills

Motown Cliché

OR - this and other variants

Musical notation for a Motown Cliché drum fill, featuring a series of eighth notes with accents and a final triplet.

80s Cliché 1

80s Cliché 2

Musical notation for two 80s Cliché drum fills. Cliché 1 consists of four groups of eighth notes, each with a triplet '3' above it. Cliché 2 is a more complex eighth-note pattern.

Disco Cliché

"I Will Survive" - Gloria Gaynor

Rock-Pop Ballad

"November Rain" - Guns n' Roses

"My Heart Will Go On" - Céline Dion

Musical notation for two drum patterns. The first, 'Disco Cliché', features eighth notes with accents and '+' symbols. The second, 'Rock-Pop Ballad', features eighth notes with accents and a final asterisk.

Rock Cliché

"Rock n' Roll, Hoochie Koo" - Rick Derringer

Rock Build-Up/Crescendo + Beat

Musical notation for two drum patterns. The first, 'Rock Cliché', features eighth notes with accents and asterisks. The second, 'Rock Build-Up/Crescendo + Beat', features a series of eighth notes that build up in volume, indicated by a wedge-shaped dynamic marking from *mf* to *f*.