



QUARTER NOTE GROOVE

Beginner Rock and Pop Drum Kit: The First Steps

LESSON NOTES

In this lesson you will learn your first drum groove/beat. We'll focus on the bass drum, snare drum and hi hats and create a groove using quarter notes. We'll discuss how drum kit is notated and learn the musical concept of "backbeat". We'll put this together by playing along to a specially composed backing track, which will help us to improve our sense of pulse and time.

Groove

- Groove - the rhythmic pattern of any piece of music. When talking specifically about drum kit 'groove' can refer to a steady rhythm on 2 or more parts of the kit (bass, snare and hi hats) as opposed to a 'fill' which most commonly is an improvised linear pattern.
- Quarter note groove - start with just the hands and add in the bass drum when you're comfortable with this. Start slowly, isolating each note and gradually increase the tempo.

Insert image

- Backbeat - a heavy accent (louder note) on beat 2 and 4 of each bar. In pop and rock music the backbeat is usually played by the snare drum, although it can be played anywhere on the drum kit. For example, a common feature of swing music is a backbeat played on the hi hats with the left foot. *Insert image*
- 3 way coordination - this groove uses both hands, plus the right foot. The difficulty is coordinating these three limbs while keeping an even pulse and sounding clear with each part of the drum kit.

Notation

- Staff/stave - music is notated on a group of lines called a staff/stave. For other instruments different lines refer to different pitches, for drum kit different lines refer to different parts of the drum kit. *Insert diagram*
- Bars - music is divided into beats and bars. The number of beats per bar is indicated by the time signature at the start of the piece of music.



- Time signature - how many beats in a bar and what type of beats these are. Pop and rock music is usually in 4/4, meaning 4 quarter note beats in each bar. This can also be written with a 'C' meaning 'Common Time'. **Insert image**
- Quarter notes/crotchets - a note with the duration of quarter of a whole note/semi breve. A quarter note is 1 beat. **Insert image**.