

Drum Kit Notation Guide

This legend defines the drum kit notation style used at sachakdrums.com for sheet music and exercise worksheets. Note that drums use normal note heads (with the exception of snare cross-stick), while cymbals use crosses or circled crosses. Generally, notes played with the sticks have upward-pointing stems, and notes played with the foot pedals have downward-pointing stems. Some stems may change their direction depending which is easiest to read for each particular application.

Drum Kit Elements And Their Staff Positions

SNARE DRUM	SNARE CROSS-STICK	BASS DRUM / KICK DRUM	2ND BASS DRUM (DOUBLE KICK SETUP)		
HIGH TOM TOM (RACK TOM 2)	HIGH TOM TOM (RACK TOM 2)	HIGH TOM TOM (RACK TOM 2)	HIGH TOM TOM (RACK TOM 2)		
HI-HAT	OPEN HI-HAT	CLOSED HI-HAT (AFTER OPENING)	HI-HAT PEDAL (CLOSE HATS WITH FOOT)	HI-HAT SPLASH (CLASH HATS & RELEASE)	CLOSE HI-HATS (AFTER SPLASH)
RIDE CYMBAL	RIDE CYMBAL BELL	CRASH CYMBAL	COWBELL	COWBELL PEDAL (PLAYED WITH FOOT)	

Common Articulations, Abbreviations & Score Conventions

ACCENT (LOUDER THAN SURROUNDING NOTES)	MARCATO (SHORT ACCENT)	STACCATO (SHORT NOTE)	GRACE NOTE / GHOST NOTE (MUCH QUIETER NOTE)	FERMATA (PAUSE/HOLD NOTE)
PLAY AS BUZZ ROLL FOR DURATION (MULTIPLE BOUNCE ROLL)	PLAY AS EIGHTH-NOTES	PLAY AS SIXTEENTH-NOTES	PLAY AS THIRTY-SECOND-NOTES	
FLAMMED NOTE (SINGLE GRACE NOTE BEFORE MAIN NOTE)	DRAGGED NOTE (DOUBLE GRACE NOTE BEFORE MAIN NOTE)	PLAY TIME (ONE BEAT PER SLASH)	REPEAT PREVIOUS BAR	REPEAT PREVIOUS TWO BARS
		REPEAT MARKS (REPEAT ALL BARS WITHIN ONCE)	DOUBLE BARLINE (END OF STRAIN/SECTION)	FINAL BARLINE (END OF PIECE)