

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 1)

MID TOM TOM (RACK TOM 2)

LOW TOM TOM (FLOOR TOM 1)

SUB TOM TOM (FLOOR 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)

GHOST NOTE (MUCH QUIETER NOTE)

FERMATA (PAUSE/HOLD NOTE)

PLAY AS BUZZ ROLL FOR DURATION (MULTIPLE BOUNCE ROLL)

PLAY AS EIGHTH-NOTES FOR DURATION

PLAY AS SIXTEENTH-NOTES FOR DURATION

PLAY AS THIRTY-SECOND-NOTES FOR DURATION

FLAMMED NOTE (SINGLE GRACE NOTE [QUIET 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)