



Music would be pretty boring if all songs had the same groove, with the kick on the "1" and the "3." Luckily, things are about to get a little more interesting! Up until now, you have only been using one simple kick pattern but there are endless options available and we are about to learn a few.

Guaranteed Winners

You will eventually learn that kick hits can go in many places within a beat. For now, to get you started, let's experiment putting some kick notes on top of some 8th notes in our 4-count; it will sound great!

Remember, the count shows us the spaces that are "available" to be used where we know notes will sound good. Some combinations sound better than others, but that is why I have written out eight guaranteed awesome kick grooves for you to practice with!

Right On Top Of The Hat

One great thing about these 8th note kick patterns is that the kick notes hit exactly at the same time as the hi-hat. This makes things a little easier while continually developing your coordination. Later you will find that often, kick hits will fall in between hi-hat hits which is a bit awkward and a challenge to master at first.

These kick hits will either fall with the count or the "ands."

Use Often

It is important for you to know that once you learn these, you are FREE TO USE THEM WHENEVER YOU CHOOSE! Many students learn these and then continue with just the original, basic kick pattern. NO! Spice things up and express yourself with different patterns and rhythms. That is what makes music fun!

From this point moving forward, you should be adding these into your normal playing daily!



If you are playing a song that already has a groove set, then you need to follow that with your kick patterns. However, if you are just playing for fun, by yourself, **feel free to create whatever cool groove you like.**

Drummer + Bassist = Rhythm Section

A quick note about the kick drum...When you start playing with other musicians, understand that the bass guitar and the drums make up what is called "The Rhythm Section" of the band. The drums and the base create a "bed" of music that the other instruments play over.

One sign of a good drummer is how well they "lock in" with the bass player. This means to be aware of what is being played on the bass guitar and make sure your kick hits compliment it well. You will get better at this with experience. If you ever hear about a band being "tight," this is a large part of it!



"Play Along" Songs" - 8th Kick Patterns

Listed below are just some of the songs that have various 8th note kick patterns (again, there are a thousand to choose from). While they may not be the exact sample exercises from this lesson, they all have kick patterns that fall on the eighth notes.

"High Hopes" - Panic At The Disco
"You Shook Me All Night Long" - AC/DC
"Help Is On The Way" - Toby Mac
"I Want It That Way" - Backstreet Boys
"One Way Or Another" - Blondie
"Bones" - Imagine Dragons
"Stacy's Mom" - Fountains of Wayne
"If You Leave" - OMD
"Every Mile A Memory" - Dierks Bentley
"Something's Always Wrong" - Toad The Wet
Sprocket
"Blinding Light" - The Weeknd
"I Want It That Way" - Backstreet Boys
"Under Pressure" - Queen

"Cool Kids" - Echosmith
"Hurts So Good" - John Mellencamp
"Come As You Are" - Nirvana
"Honey Bee" - Blake Shelton
"Easy Lover" - Phil Collins & Phillip Bailey
"Kings & Queens" - Ava Max
"Still Into You" - Paramore
"Sunny Came Home" - Shawn Colvin
"Sky Full Of Stars" - Coldplay
"Natural" Imagine Dragons
"I Do" - Lisa Loeb
"Sugar" - Maroon 5
"Get The Party Started" - Pink



When you feel comfortable with the patterns, try playing through each one five times, individually. Go as slowly as is needed to play them correctly and cleanly.



Try running through each kick pattern using the "3 + 1" pattern. Be sure to put a fill in the 4th measure with a crash cymbal.

Exercise 1

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
		SN				SN	
K				K	K		

Exercise 2

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
		SN				SN	
K	K						

Exercise 3

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
		SN				SN	
K			K				

Eighth Notes - Kick Patterns (cont'd)



Exercise 4

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
		SN				SN	
K					K		

Exercise 5

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
		SN				SN	
K	K		K		K		

Exercise 6

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
		SN				SN	
K			K	K			

Exercise 7

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
		SN				SN	
K							K