



Now it's time to learn our first beat! To get started, we will assemble a basic 4-count beat. This beat will provide the foundation that all other beats will build upon.

Quarter Note Beat (4-Count)

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

It's important to notice that the hi-hat is played on every count. The bass (kick) drum is hit on counts "1" & "3" and the snare drum is hit on counts "2" & "4."

Remember to count out loud with each count as you play.

With these three pieces, we have a basic drum beat. It may take some practice before it feels comfortable, but keep at it and it will come easier! Take your time and work through this beat until it feels easy. Go slowly as needed to give your body and mind a chance to get used to it.

At first, we went to focus on developing your coordination to play the beat correctly. This shouldn't take too long, just remember to keep it slow until your body figures it out and it becomes smoother. Next, the primary focus should be on timing. Your main goal should be to try and play the kick at the exact same time as the hi-hat, then making sure your snare is played at the exact same time as the hi-hat. Playing and counting along with a metronome is important to develop good timing!



Using a metronome set for 70 BPM, play the exercises below for 60 seconds each. These will guide you slowly as you get used to putting the pieces together to play the beat.

Exercise 1

1	2	3	4
H	H	H	H

Exercise 2

1	2	3	4
H	H	H	H
K		K	

Exercise 3

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

Be patient and take it very slowly - eventually it will feel natural. It is very, very important to work on this beat until it is second-nature and smooth. Remember to count out loud as you play!