

Sixteenth Notes - Alternating Hi-Hat Beat



While some songs using a sixteenth note hi-hat beat can be played with the right hand only, as you encounter songs with faster tempos, you will need to switch to a method of using both hands to hit the hi-hat, alternating back and forth. This is a valuable tool to have in your arsenal as you develop and improve.

This beat was widely used in the 70's and 80's, but there are modern songs that still use it.

Alternating (2-Handed) 16th Note Hi-Hat Beat

1	e	+	a	2	e	+	a	3	e	+	a	4	e	+	a
H _R	H _L	H _R	H _L		H _L	H _R	H _L	H _R	H _L	H _R	H _L		H _L	H _R	H _L
				SN _R								SN _R			
K								K							

NOTE: Notice the small red letters indicating which hands should be used to play this beat smoothly and properly. "R" & "L" represent right or left hand to be used.

It will feel awkward at first, but with some practice it will feel more natural. Take it slow and focus on the correct motions. **Also, it is important to note that you will be hitting the snare with your RIGHT HAND as you play this beat.**



"Play Along" Songs" - Alternating Sixteenth Notes on Hi-Hat

Listed below are just some of the songs that feature alternating sixteenth notes on the hi-hat. While a few could possibly be played single-handed, the majority of these require both hands.

"Pride" - U2

"The Way It Is" - Bruce Hornsby

"Everlong" - Foo Fighters

"Sky Full Of Stars" - Coldplay

"Rock With You" - Michael Jackson

"Lowdown" - Boz Scaggs

"Humankind" - Coldplay

"Rocket Queen" - Guns N Roses

"This Is Amazing Grace" - Phil Wickham

"I Keep Forgetting" - Michael McDonald

"Something About You" - Level 42

"Love Touch" - Rod Stewart

"Magnificent" - U2

"Jet City Woman" - Queensryche

"Glorious Day" - Kristian Stanfill

"Don't You Forget About Me" - Simple Minds

"West End Girls" - Pet Shop Boys

"Whatcha Gonna Do" - Pablo Cruise

"Shut Up And Dance With Me" - Walk The Moon

"Mr. Brownstone" - Guns N Roses

"The Look" - Roxette

"Alive and Kicking" - Simple Minds

"Raise A Hallelujah" - Bethel Worship

"Kyrie" - Mr. Mister

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It is important to get used to using different kick patterns along with the newly added sixteenth notes on the hi-hat. Here are a few exercises that sound great and will help build your coordination.



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

Exercise 1

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

Exercise 2

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

Exercise 3

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