



Now that you know the different sections that make up modern songs, we should take a look at how these parts are joined together to create a song. It may seem like a mystery, but songs are actually organized much like blocks that are put together in a certain order. Seeing the parts laid out in order helps to understand the structure better.

Basic Song Map

Here you see an example of a basic song arrangement that is widely used. No two songs are arranged exactly alike, but most share the same basic format.

The lines that connect each part of the song are where fills would go, guiding from one part of the song to the next. Smaller fills could also be used inside the song sections as we discussed earlier.

Here we see a few important things:

- The verse usually comes before a chorus (though not always)
- There are usually several verses & choruses in a song
- The instrumental / solo usually comes past the halfway point of the song

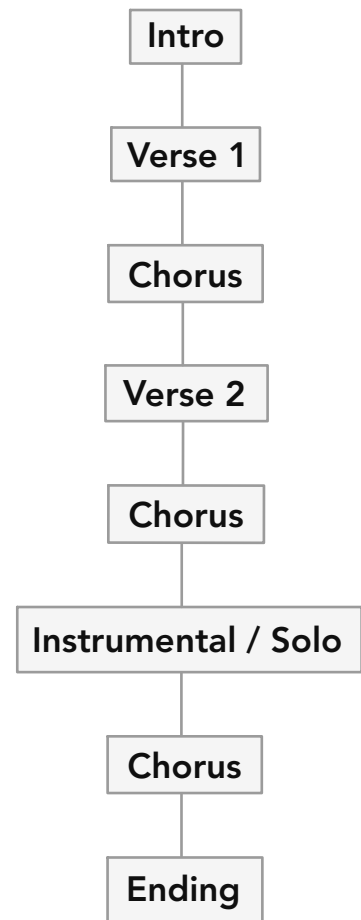
Make Charts For Your Gig

As you improve and begin to play with other musicians, you may find yourself in a situation where you need to learn some songs that are unfamiliar to you. Most likely you'll be told the songs ahead of time so you can prepare charts or whatever you might need.

More Complex

On the next page is a diagram of a much more complex song that I made up. To the left of each section I have listed the number of measures. To the right, I've added helpful notes. As you get more experience, you can make your own charts for songs similar to this.

BASIC SONG MAP





"EXAMPLE SONG"

(4/4 Time, 120 BPM)

8m (8 measures)

Intro / Hook

big, explosive ride beat

16m

Verse 1

closed hi-hat beat

4m

Pre-Chorus

"sizzle" hi-hat beat, bigger

8m

Chorus

ride beat

8m

Hook

ride beat - big with crashes

16m

Verse 2

closed hi-hat beat

4m

Pre-Chorus

"sizzle" hi-hat beat, bigger

8m

Chorus

ride beat

8m

Bridge

floor tom beat - kick on every count

16m

Instrumental / Solo

"sizzle" hi-hat beat, bigger

8m

Chorus

ride beat

8m

Outro / Hook

big, explosive ride beat

Ending

big, single-hit crash ring out



Below I have mapped out four real songs that you can listen to and learn from. Take some time and study each one, following the written out sections below. Count the measures as you go through each section.

"Centuries"

Fall Out Boy

Intro	(2m)
Chorus	(8m)
Hook	(4m)
Verse 1	(8m)
Pre-Chorus	(2m)
Chorus	(8m)
Hook	(4m)
Verse 2	(8m)
Pre-Chorus	(2m)
Chorus	(8m)
Hook	(4m)
Bridge	(8m)
Pre-Chorus	(4m)
Chorus	(8m)
Outro / Hook	(4m)

"Livin' On A Prayer"

Bon Jovi

Intro	(4m)
Intro / Hook	(12m)
Verse 1	(16m)
Pre-Chorus	(8m)
Chorus	(8m)
Hook	(2m)
Verse 2	(16m)
Pre-Chorus	(8m)
Chorus	(8m)
Tag	(2m)
Solo	(9m)
Bridge	(3m + 3 counts)
Chorus	(8m)
Outro / Chorus	(8m, fades)

"When I Come Around"

Green Day

Intro	(2m guitar, 4m band)
Verse 1	(16m)
Chorus	(4m)
Hook	(4m)
Verse 2	(16m)
Chorus	(4m)
Hook	(4m)
Solo	(4m)
Chorus	(4m)
Outro / Hook	(8m)

"Natural"

Imagine Dragons

Intro	(4m)
Verse 1	(8m)
Pre-Chorus	(8m)
Chorus	(8m)
Verse 2	(8m)
Pre-Chorus	(8m)
Chorus	(8m)
Verse 3	(9m)
Chorus	(8m)
Outro	(8m)



Now that you have learned the basic song parts and how they are often arranged together, try and chart out some of your favorite songs. It takes some practice but it will get easier!

Have A Plan

Understanding how songs are assembled will allow you to plan ahead as you get ready to play. For example, if you know when it's time for the big solo, you can have an amazing fill ready to go at just the right time!

Having a chart for a song will give you confidence as you discuss the song with other musicians. If you really want to stand out as a drummer, know your music backwards and forwards! You will develop a reputation as someone who is "always prepared" and people will want to play with you, trust me.