



It's time to introduce the crash cymbal, one of the main tools that bring the energy on the drum kit! Though we haven't done it up until this point, hitting the crash at the end is the normal way to finish a fill. In order to give it even more emphasis, you also should hit the kick drum at the same time as the crash cymbal.

Keep The Beat Going

One of the most difficult things for newer drummers to do is get back into the normal beat once they finish a fill with the crash cymbal. Remember we need to land on "1" and then IMMEDIATELY resume playing our beat.

Newer drummers will often crash at the end of a fill, pause for a second, and then resume the beat, starting on count "1" but what they don't realize is that the crash was the "1," and the count is now beyond that.

The count SHOULD sound like this: **"CRASH + 2 + 3 + 4 +"**

NOT like this: **"CRASH.... 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +"**

Getting Used To It

The first step to getting used to resuming the beat after hitting the crash is to get used to "crashing" on "1" during a normal beat. While we won't normally hit the crash on EVERY measure, consider this just an exercise.

Pay special attention to hitting the hi-hat IMMEDIATELY after the crash cymbal, on the "and" after "1." That should get you set back into your normal beat. Try not to pause at any point in this exercise, but keep continually playing.

The Crash Cymbal



Play this pattern slowly. This “beat fragment” isn’t really a beat to play, but more like a set of motions that your body should get used to doing. **The focus is to immediately hit the hi-hat following the crash cymbal hit.** Repeat the pattern until you are used to it and play it correctly consistently.

1	+	2	+
crash	H	H	H
K		SN	



Play this pattern for 60 seconds. Once you are comfortable with this, you should not pause after hitting the crash cymbal, but immediately hit the hi-hat.

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



Play this exercise for 3 minutes. The idea here is to play a beat for 4 measures with a crash cymbal at the start of each new set. Each rectangle below illustrates a MEASURE of playing with a 4-count for each. It is extremely common to have groupings of 4 measures in music. It is a very good practice to hit a crash cymbal at the end of 4 measures.

crash

1 2 3 4	2 2 3 4	3 2 3 4	4 2 3 4
beat	beat	beat	beat

NOTE: Because we hit the crash cymbal on the “1” count, I have placed it at the start of the group.