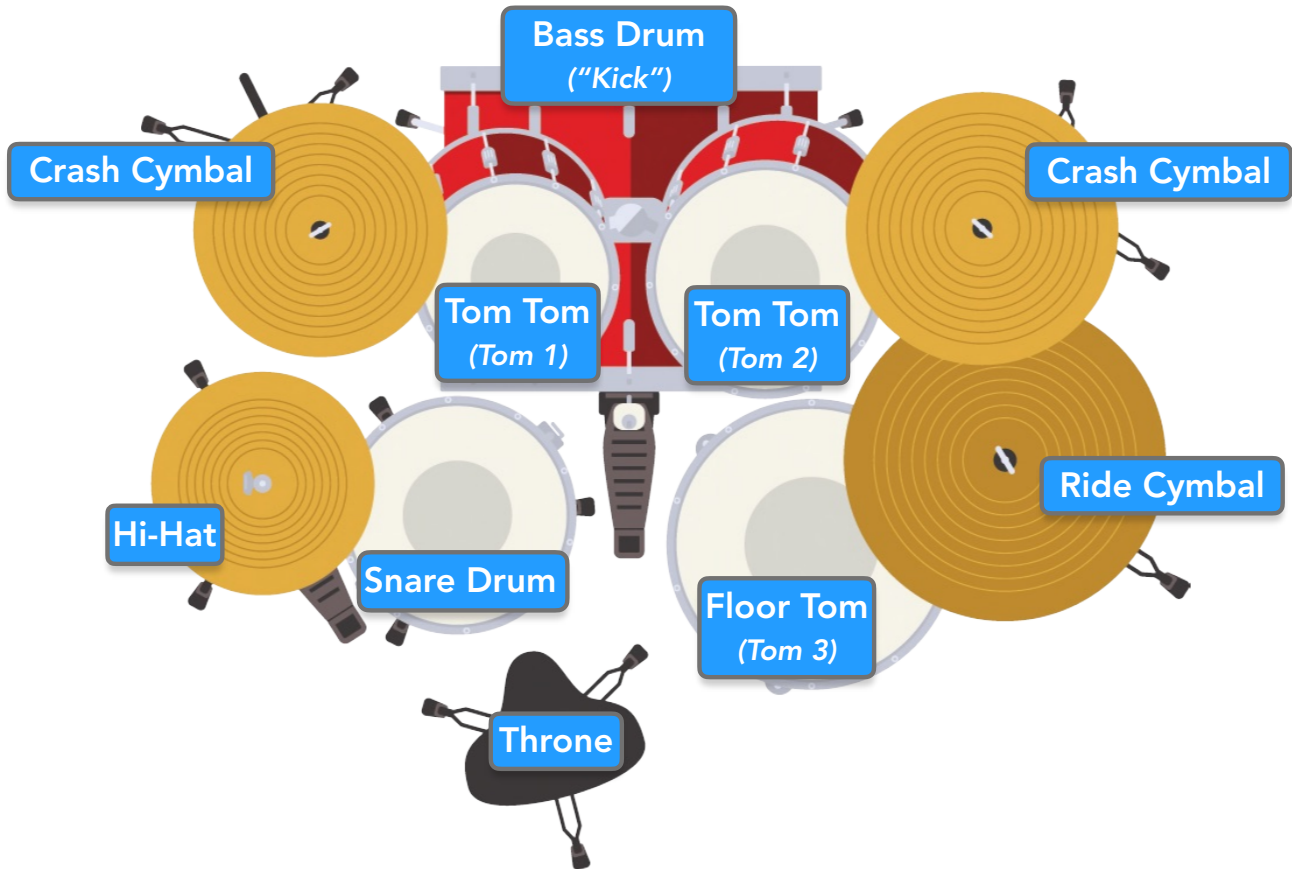


Lesson 1 - Parts of a Drum Kit



It is important to know the parts of a drum kit and the role each plays in making music on the drums. Take some time to get familiar with each piece.



Hi-Hat - Two smaller cymbals that are attached by a rod that moves up and down by a pedal, controlled by your left foot. The top cymbal is usually positioned about 3/4" above the bottom cymbal. When you press the pedal, the two cymbals close together and make a "tick tick" sound when struck. The two cymbals are normally in the closed position when playing, but special effects can be created by opening the cymbals with the pedal. Hi-Hat cymbals are purchased in pairs and are usually 13-14."

Snare Drum - This is the primary drum that is used to create the beat along with the kick drum. Thin, curly "snare wires" rest against the bottom head of the drum and give it the unique sound that the other drums don't have. Snare drums are typically 13-14."

Bass Drum - The large drum that sits on the floor facing out, not up. Using a pedal controlled by the right foot, the Bass, or "Kick," Drum produces a low, thumping sound, similar to a heart beat. It is the partner of the snare drum, used in creating a beat. Bass drums are typically 22-24."



Tom-Toms - These are mounted on top of the Bass Drum and produce a lower pitch than the snare. Typically there are 1 to 3 of them seen in most drum kits. You may also hear them referred to as "rack toms" and range in size from small (producing a higher pitch) to larger (producing a deeper pitch). While the toms can be used in beats, they are most often used to create fills. Rack toms range in size from 8-14."

Floor Tom-Toms - Usually called "Floor Toms," these are taller, deeper versions of rack toms, except they have legs that sit on the floor, rather than being mounted. Floor toms produce the lowest pitch of all the toms. It is not unusual to see drum kits with 2 floor toms, though it is perfectly normal to have only one. Floor toms are usually 14-18."

Crash Cymbals - These are louder cymbals, used to add color and excitement. Typically, crash cymbals are used at the end of fills and create a "pssshh" sound. It is recommended to have at least one crash cymbal, though some drum kits have several. They range in different sizes with smaller cymbals creating a higher pitch and larger cymbals creating a lower pitch. While mainly used for fills, crash cymbals can also be used when playing a loud beat. Crash cymbals typically range in size from 14-20,"

Ride Cymbal - usually the largest of the cymbals, it is played by tapping the top of the stick on the top of the cymbal, producing a soft "ping" sound. It is primarily used when playing a beat to give a different feel. Ride cymbals range in size from 18-24."