



The Crash Cymbal

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.**

Resume The Beat

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, as shown in Figure 13-1. 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.

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

Figure 13-1



15 minutes each day

Lesson 13 - "Hands On" Exercises

- Using Figure 13-1, practice hitting the crash at the beginning of each measure, over and over. Try to do it 10 times in a row without stopping. Pay special attention to hitting the hi-hat IMMEDIATELY after the crash cymbal, on the "**and**" after "1."

 - Use the "3 + 1" pattern with the two fills from Lesson 9. Add the crash and kick together at the end of each fill. Alternate the fills each time. Pay special attention to hitting the hi-hat IMMEDIATELY after the crash cymbal, on the "**and**" after "1."
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Why It Matters

Landing a fill at just the right time is magical, but if you are unable to keep the song moving along afterwards, all the magic is lost. Not only will you look like you don't know what you're doing, chances are you will derail the song and embarrass anyone else who is playing with you.

As you listen to some of your favorite songs, pay attention to the way that the drummer get right back into the beat after they play fills. It's not hard to learn, it just takes a little practice!

Common Mistakes To Avoid

It is important to not pause as you finish the crash, but to get right back into playing the beat. Hitting the hi-hat IMMEDIATELY after the crash on the "and" of "1" should get you back into the beat.

Remember to hit the kick drum along with the crash cymbal at the end of a fill to give it more emphasis.