Though we won't be reading music or using musical notation, we still must have a way to see what should be played, and where, on the drums. I use a very easy and logical "timeline" method to which is very easy to understand. It shows what drums should be played by following the count.

A great advantage of this method is that you can go as slowly as needed, focusing on a single count at a time as we encounter more challenging examples.

An Easy Approach

Let's look at a basic example. This is a timeline for a 4-count beat, "1, 2, 3, 4." The drums that should be played will be written directly beneath each count. As you count along, play everything that is directly below each part of the count.

So on count "1," we would play the **hi-hat** and **kick drum** together at the same time.

1	2	3	4
H	H	H	H
	SN		SN
K		K	

Figure 3-1

On count "2," play the **hi-hat** and **snare drum** together.

1	2	3	4
H	H	H	H
	SN		SN
K		K	

Figure 3-2

Now that you see how it works for counts "1" & "2," you would do the same for counts "3" & "4."

Later examples in this course will get a bit more complicated, but they follow the same principle of following the count and playing what is directly underneath.

H - Hi-Hat
K - Kick Drum
SN - Snare Drum