

Lesson 4 - Our First Beat - Quarter Note Beat (4-Count)



Now it's time to learn our first beat! To get started, we will assemble a basic 4-count beat.

First, we will play only the **hi-hat** with each count.

○ - metronome click

○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4
H	H	H	H

Figure 4-1

Next, along with the hi-hat, let's add the **kick drum** on beats "1" & "3."

○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4
H	H	H	H
K		K	

Figure 4-2

Finally, we will add the **snare drum** on beats "2" & "4," joining the hi-hat and kick drum.

Quarter Note Beat (4-Count)

○ 1	○ 2	○ 3	○ 4
H	H	H	H
	SN		SN
K		K	

Figure 4-3

With these three pieces, we have a basic drum beat. Great job! It may take some practice before it feels comfortable, but keep at it and it will come easier! Take your time and work through this beat until it feels easy. Go slowly as needed to give your body and mind a chance to get used to it.

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



15 minutes per day

Lesson 4 - "Hands On" Exercises

- Beginning with Figure 4-1, start counting out loud, "1, 2, 3, 4." Tap the hi-hat in time with each count.
- Continuing into Figure 4-2, as you count and play the hi-hat, bring in the kick drum.
- Complete your beat by adding in the snare as shown in Figure 4-3. Take some time and let your body get used to playing this.
- Play the quarter note beat along with a metronome set to 70 BPM. If you need, count aloud as you play.

Why It Matters

This beat marks the beginning of your journey into drumming. It will challenge your coordination and early abilities. This beat is the backbone and foundation of most other beats that you will learn as you progress, so take your time and master it.

Common Mistakes To Avoid

Be sure that your beats are hitting exactly when the count and clicks play. It is normal at first for your body to feel awkward performing this. It's also common for your body to play the kick and snare together at the same time, but do your best to separate them as shown in Figure 4-3.

Don't move to the next lesson until this beat feels natural and is no longer difficult.