

Lesson 5 - 8th Note Beat (4-Count)



Now you are ready to learn the most popular beat there is - a standard eighth note pop/rock beat. This beat is the hallmark of modern drumming and you will use it far more than any other beat.

Starting with the basic quarter note beat you just learned, let's add 8th notes on the **hi-hat**. In between each count we will now say "and."

○ - metronome click

○	"and"	○	"and"	○	"and"	○	"and"
1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H

Figure 5-1

It may take some time to get used to the extra notes on the hi-hat, but take it slowly and it will come.

Just like before, now let's add in the **kick** and the **snare** to complete our beat.

Eighth Note Beat (4-Count)

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

Figure 5-2

Take plenty of time to play this slowly and eventually it will feel natural. It is very, very important to work on this beat until it is second-nature and smooth. Be patient and keep at it!

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



15 minutes per day

Lesson 5 - "Hands On" Exercises

- Count along with figure 5-1, being sure to include the "ands" as you count out loud. Tap the hi-hat as shown.
 - Practice Figure 5-2 slowly until it feels natural.
 - Practice playing and counting Figure 5-2 with a metronome set to 70 BPM.
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Why It Matters

The 8th note beat is the most popular beat there is. It is the cornerstone beat for rock, pop, modern country and R & B music, just to name a few. It is important to challenge your coordination to grow in order to be able to play this beat as you are getting started.

Common Mistakes To Avoid

Be sure to focus on playing a steady, even beat. The kick and snare should land right along with the click. It may take some time to get good at playing along with a click, but keep at it!

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