

Drum Kit Performance

Stage 1: The student plays 'free style' on the drums (snare drum, tom-toms and floor tom) to a simple tune in 4/4 time, such as 'I'm the King of the Jungle'. When the music stops, they strike a cymbal once. When the music continues, they return to playing the other drums. They should aim to keep a steady pulse and, through careful listening, to anticipate the moment they strike the cymbal.

Stage 2: The student plays the hi-hat (right hand) and snare drum (left hand) in a typical drum kit pattern, following the instruction 'on its own, together' and with assistance at first. The notated pattern is shown below:



Stage 2a: The student adds the cymbal strike to this rhythm when the music stops, as in stage 1.

Stage 3: Once stage 2 is fluent, the student adds the bass drum (right foot) to the texture. Now the instruction is 'bass drum and hi-hat, both sticks together'. The new notated pattern is shown below:



Stage 3a: The student adds the cymbal strike to this rhythm when the music stops, as in stage 1.

Stage 4: The student plays quavers instead of crotchets on the hi-hat, building on their understanding of rhythm from the African drumming warm-ups. The new notated pattern is shown below:



Stages 2, 3 and 4 are played along to the same simple tune in 4/4 time as stage 1 so the student is comfortable with the accompaniment and can always link their learning back to a simple musical structure.