

# Lesson 3 Get the feel of 8-beat

## Playing simple 8-beat rhythms

As the first step toward drumming proficiency, try playing an 8-beat rhythm.

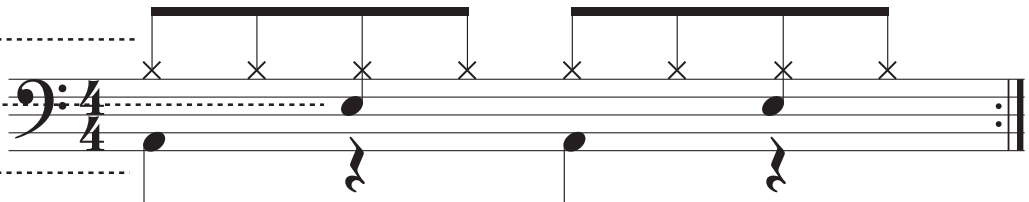
An 8-beat rhythm is one in which emphasis is placed on the back beat (the second and fourth beats of a bar). Typically used in rock music, it's a popular rhythm. It's just the thing to get you started with drumming, so master it now.

As you can see from the score below, 8-beat uses a combination of three instruments: bass drum, snare drum, and hi-hat.

Hi-hat cymbals

Snare drum

Bass drum



### ● Hi-hat cymbals (closed)

The sound of the hi-hat is an important element for a distinctive 8-beat sound. While the hi-hat is closed (with the left foot pressing the pedal), strike with the right hand.

### ● Bass drum

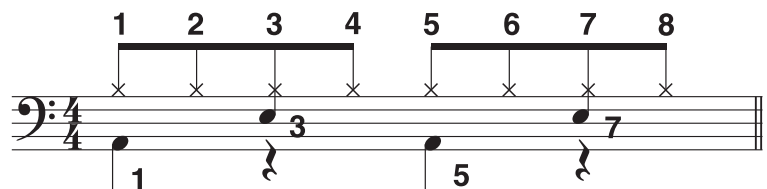
The bass drum sound provides underlying support for the beat. Get a defined sound with clean kicks of the right foot.

### ● Snare drum

The timing of the snare drum sound, intended to add back beat emphasis to the second and fourth beats, is important. Make sure that the volume of the snare drum sound doesn't fall off.

## Let's get better : How to count the 8-beat rhythm

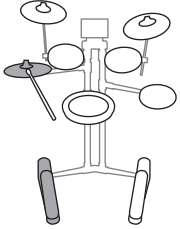
In this guide, to make things easier for beginners, four beats are divided into eight and counted as "1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8." Even so, because 8-beat is essentially four quarter-note beats, it's better to count as '1 and, 2 and, 3 and, 4 and.' Try it and you'll see how easy it is.



## Exercise 3-1

To master the 8-beat rhythm, break down the rhythm and get the hang of each part in stages.

## STEP 1



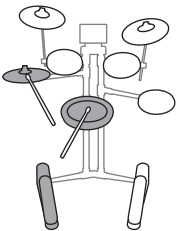
- Play the hi-hat alone

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

R

Hi-hat cymbals

## STEP 2



- Play the hi-hat while beating the snare drum on 3 and 7

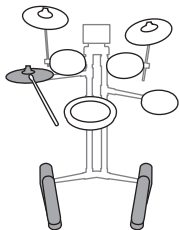
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Hi-hat cymbals

Snare drum

L L

## STEP 3



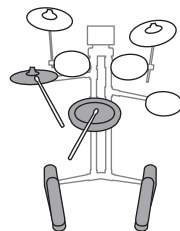
- Play the hi-hat while beating the bass drum on 1 and 5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Hi-hat cymbals

Bass drum

## STEP 4



- While counting, play all three in combination

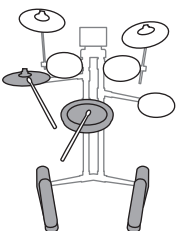
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Hi-hat cymbals

Snare drum

Bass drum

## STEP 5



- Without counting, play all three in combination

# Learn drum notation and basic musical symbols

## Learn percussion notation and the symbols for each instrument

Percussion scores use the standard 5-line staff used for musical notation. Match the symbols to the instruments shown on the left page.

Remember the position on the staff by being aware of the pitch of the instrument.

- x — Crash/Ride cymbal
- x — Hi-hat cymbals
- High tom
- Low tom
- Snare drum
- Floor tom
- Bass drum

## Get acquainted with basic musical-notation symbols

In a percussion score the duration of notes and rests is marked like that of normal music scores. You can use the tables below for reference.

Name of note	Symbol	Fraction of whole note	Fraction of quarter note	Name of rest	Symbol	Fraction of quarter rest
Whole note	○	1	4	Whole rest	—	4
Half note	♩	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	Half rest	—	2
Quarter note	♪	$\frac{1}{4}$	1	Quarter rest	∩	1
8th note	♪♪	$\frac{1}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	8th rest	∩	$\frac{1}{2}$
16th note	♪♪♪	$\frac{1}{16}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	16th rest	∩	$\frac{1}{4}$

Name of note	Symbol	Duration	Multiple of quarter note
Dotted half note	♩.	♩ + ♩	3
Dotted quarter note	♩.	♩ + ♩	$1 + \frac{1}{2} = 1.5$
Dotted 8th note	♪.	♪ + ♩	$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{4} = 0.75$