

Beginner Drum Lesson

"13 Common Drum Beats"

Various Styles

Standard Quarter Note Groove

Basic Example

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a quarter note on the second line of the staff in each of the four measures. Above the staff, the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are placed above each measure, with a plus sign (+) between each number. Above the first measure, there is an 'x' on the top line of the staff, indicating a cymbal hit.

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Two musical staves in 4/4 time. The first staff shows Variation #1: measures 1 and 2 have quarter notes on the second line with cymbal hits (x) on the top line; measures 3 and 4 have quarter notes on the second line with a bracket over the two notes in each measure. The second staff shows Variation #2: measures 1 and 2 have quarter notes on the second line with cymbal hits (x) on the top line; measures 3 and 4 have quarter notes on the second line with a bracket over the two notes in each measure.

Standard Eighth Note Groove

Basic Example

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing eighth notes on the second line of the staff. Above the staff, the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are placed above each measure, with a plus sign (+) between each number. Above the first measure, there is an 'x' on the top line of the staff, indicating a cymbal hit.

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + a 3 + 4 +

Two musical staves in 4/4 time. The first staff shows Variation #1: measures 1 and 2 have eighth notes on the second line with cymbal hits (x) on the top line; measures 3 and 4 have eighth notes on the second line with a bracket over the two notes in each measure. The second staff shows Variation #2: measures 1 and 2 have eighth notes on the second line with cymbal hits (x) on the top line; measures 3 and 4 have eighth notes on the second line with a bracket over the two notes in each measure. Above the first measure of Variation #2, there is a plus sign (+) above the first eighth note, and above the third measure, there is a plus sign (+) above the first eighth note.

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Standard Sixteenth Note Groove

Basic Example

1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a

R L R L R L R L ...

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a 1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a

Four To The Floor

Basic Example

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 + 2 + a 3 e + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

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Motown Groove

Basic Example

1 + 2 + 3 + +

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + 3 + a 4 +

Disco/Dance Groove

Basic Example

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 +

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 + 2 + a 3 e + 4 +

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12/8 Groove

Basic Example

1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6 1 2 3 4 5 6

Shuffle Groove

Basic Example

1 3 + 2 3 + 3 3 + 4 3 +

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 3 + 2 3 + 3 3 + 4 3 + 1 3 + 2 3 + 3 3 + 4 3 +

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Half-Time Shuffle Groove

Basic Example

1 3 + 2 3 + 3 3 + 4 3 +

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 3 + 2 3 + 3 3 + 4 3 + 1 3 + 2 3 + 3 3 + 4 3 +

Jazz Ostinato

Basic Example

1 + 2 3 + 3 + 4 3 +

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 + 2 3 + 3 3 + 4 3 + 1 + 2 3 + 3 3 + 4 3 +

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The Train Beat

Basic Example

1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a



R L R L R L R L ...

Variation #1

Variation #2

1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a 1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a



R RL RL LR LR RL LR LR LR LR RL RL