

# Level 1: Quarter Notes in 2/4, 4/4, and 3/4 Time

## KEY TO SYMBOLS USED IN DRUM SET MUSIC

Notice that we use an "X" or **diamond** for the **cymbals**, but a **regular notehead** for the **drums**. This is so it is easier to tell them apart.

Crash Cymbal      Closed Hi-Hat      Open Hi-Hat      Ride Cymbal      Ride Bell

High Tom      Medium Tom      Snare Drum      Floor (Low) Tom

Bass Drum (Right Foot)      Hi-Hat (Left Foot)

Notice that the stems go **up** for the instruments that your **hands** play and **down** for what your **feet** play. This *won't* happen *all* of the time, but it *will* happen *most* of the time.

Quarter Notes on the Ride Cymbal in 2/4 Time.

## COUNT OUT LOUD

1    RH    1    2    1    2

2    1    2    1    2

3    RH    1    2    1    2

4    1    2    1    2

5    RH    1    2    1    2

6    1    2    1    2

7    1    2    1    2

LH

RF

RF

RF    LH

Quarter Notes on the Ride Cymbal in 4/4 Time (Snare Drum on Beats 2 and 4).

## COUNT OUT LOUD

1 RH 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

2 LH 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

3 RH LH 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

4 RF 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

5 RH RF 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

6 RF LH 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

7 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Quarter Notes on the Ride Cymbal in 4/4 Time (Snare Drum on Beat 3).

## COUNT OUT LOUD

1 RH 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

2 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

LH

3 RH 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

LH

4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

RF

5 RH 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

RF

6 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

RF LH

7 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

Quarter Notes on the Ride Cymbal in 3/4 Time.

# COUNT OUT LOUD

1 RH 1 2 3 1 2 3

1 2 3 1 2 3

2 1 2 3 1 2 3

LH

3 RH 1 2 3 1 2 3

LH

4 1 2 3 1 2 3

RF

5 RH 1 2 3 1 2 3

RF

6 1 2 3 1 2 3

RF LH

7 1 2 3 1 2 3

RF LH

# 12-Bar Blues

## COUNT OUT LOUD

First staff of music, 4/4 time signature, starting with a double bar line and repeat sign. The melody consists of quarter notes on the G4 line, with an asterisk above the first note. The bass line consists of half notes on the C4 and F3 lines. The dynamic marking *mp* is written below the staff.

Second staff of music, continuing the melody and bass line from the first staff.

Third staff of music, continuing the melody and bass line. The staff ends with a double bar line and repeat sign, followed by a whole note on the C4 line.

Fourth staff of music, 4/4 time signature, starting with a double bar line and repeat sign. The melody consists of quarter notes on the G4 line, with an asterisk above the first note. The bass line consists of half notes on the C4 and F3 lines. The dynamic marking *mf* is written below the staff.

Fifth staff of music, continuing the melody and bass line from the fourth staff.

Sixth staff of music, continuing the melody and bass line. The staff ends with a double bar line and repeat sign, followed by a whole note on the C4 line.

## Playing a FOUR-MEASURE PHRASE in 2/4 Time.

Play the drum beat three times, then play the quarter-note FILL on the snare drum. This is an example of a FOUR-MEASURE PHRASE. Repeat that over and over again, until it becomes comfortable. Then, play each line two times on the hi-hat (hold it closed with your left foot) then two times on the ride, without stopping until that becomes comfortable. Finally, play the whole page without stopping (each line 2X on the hi-hat, 2X on the ride).

### COUNT OUT LOUD (2X Hi-Hat / 2X Ride)

1

mf f

2

mf f

3

mf f

4

mf f

5

mf f

6

mf f

7

mf f

Playing a FOUR-MEASURE PHRASE in 4/4 Time (Snare on 2 and 4).

### COUNT OUT LOUD (2X Hi-Hat / 2X Ride)

1

mf f

Detailed description: This is the first of seven drum set parts. It is written on a single staff with a 4/4 time signature. The first four measures are marked *mf* and feature a snare drum on the second and fourth beats, with a hi-hat on the first and third beats. The next four measures are marked *f* and feature a snare drum on the second and fourth beats, with a ride cymbal on the first and third beats. The piece concludes with a final snare drum hit on the first beat of the fifth measure, followed by a double bar line.

2

mf f

Detailed description: This is the second of seven drum set parts, identical in notation to the first. It features a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a hi-hat on the first and third beats for the first four measures (*mf*), and a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a ride cymbal on the first and third beats for the next four measures (*f*).

3

mf f

Detailed description: This is the third of seven drum set parts, identical in notation to the first. It features a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a hi-hat on the first and third beats for the first four measures (*mf*), and a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a ride cymbal on the first and third beats for the next four measures (*f*).

4

mf f

Detailed description: This is the fourth of seven drum set parts, identical in notation to the first. It features a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a hi-hat on the first and third beats for the first four measures (*mf*), and a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a ride cymbal on the first and third beats for the next four measures (*f*).

5

mf f

Detailed description: This is the fifth of seven drum set parts, identical in notation to the first. It features a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a hi-hat on the first and third beats for the first four measures (*mf*), and a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a ride cymbal on the first and third beats for the next four measures (*f*).

6

mf f

Detailed description: This is the sixth of seven drum set parts, identical in notation to the first. It features a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a hi-hat on the first and third beats for the first four measures (*mf*), and a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a ride cymbal on the first and third beats for the next four measures (*f*).

7

mf f

Detailed description: This is the seventh of seven drum set parts, identical in notation to the first. It features a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a hi-hat on the first and third beats for the first four measures (*mf*), and a snare drum on the second and fourth beats and a ride cymbal on the first and third beats for the next four measures (*f*).

## Playing a FOUR-MEASURE PHRASE in 4/4 Time (Snare on 3).

COUNT OUT LOUD  
(2X Hi-Hat / 2X Ride)

The image displays seven staves of drum notation, each representing a different drum part for a four-measure phrase in 4/4 time. The snare drum is on the third beat. The notation includes dynamic markings (*mf* and *f*) and stroke order numbers (1, 2, 3, 4) above the notes. The first four measures of each staff are marked *mf*, and the last measure is marked *f*. The notation is as follows:

- Staff 1:** Measures 1-4: *mf*. Measure 5: *f*. Stroke order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1.
- Staff 2:** Measures 1-4: *mf*. Measure 5: *f*. Stroke order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1.
- Staff 3:** Measures 1-4: *mf*. Measure 5: *f*. Stroke order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1.
- Staff 4:** Measures 1-4: *mf*. Measure 5: *f*. Stroke order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1.
- Staff 5:** Measures 1-4: *mf*. Measure 5: *f*. Stroke order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1.
- Staff 6:** Measures 1-4: *mf*. Measure 5: *f*. Stroke order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1.
- Staff 7:** Measures 1-4: *mf*. Measure 5: *f*. Stroke order: 1, 2, 3, 4, 1.

## Playing a FOUR-MEASURE PHRASE in 3/4 Time.

COUNT OUT LOUD  
(2X Hi-Hat / 2X Ride)

1

*mf* *f*

2

*mf* *f*

3

*mf* *f*

4

*mf* *f*

5

*mf* *f*

6

*mf* *f*

7

*mf* *f*