

Drum Etude

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Notation Key

Drum Set

A notation key for a drum set. It consists of a five-line staff with various symbols placed on it. Below the staff, the symbols are identified: a cross for hi-hat pedal, a solid circle for kick, a vertical line for low tom, a vertical line with an 'x' for snare drum, a vertical line with a dot for high tom, a vertical line with an 'x' for ride cym., a vertical line with a triangle for hi-hat, and a vertical line with a triangle for crash cym. Above the staff, some symbols are labeled with '(rim)', '(side stick)', '(bell)', and '(bell)'.

hi-hat pedal
kick
low tom
snare drum
high tom
ride cym.
hi-hat
crash cym.

(rim) (rim) (side stick) (rim) (bell) (bell) (bell)

Drum Set

The first system of musical notation for the drum set. It is in 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 90. The notation uses yarn mallets. It features various dynamics: *n* (normal), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *n*, *mf* (mezzo-forte), *n*, *p* (piano), *pp* (pianissimo) *sempre*, *pp*, and *f* (forte). There are also notes for 'shaft of mallet' and '(damp)'. The notation includes triplets and slurs.

♩ = 90
yarn mallets
shaft of mallet
⊕ (damp)

n *mp* *n*
n *mf* *n*
n *p* *n*
pp *sempre*
pp *f*

drumsticks

The second system of musical notation for the drum set, starting at measure 7. It features a 'seamless transition' from *f* to *p*. The notation includes triplets and dynamics: *f*, *p*, *p*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, *p*, *mf*. There are also notes for 'edge' and 'center' with a dashed arrow pointing from edge to center. The notation includes triplets and slurs.

7
seamless transition
edge → center
seamless transition

f *p* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *p* *mf*

The third system of musical notation for the drum set, starting at measure 11. It features a '6' over a triplet and a '3' over a triplet. The notation includes dynamics: *mf*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*. The notation includes triplets, slurs, and accents.

11
mf *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

The fourth system of musical notation for the drum set, starting at measure 15. It features a '3' over a triplet. The notation includes dynamics: *f*, *p*. The notation includes triplets, slurs, and accents.

15
f *p*

float up
and down
as if in
slow motion

choke
cymbals
dead strokes

17 *f* *f p* + (ord.) 3

21 RL 5 5

25 *f* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f* mute quickly

28 *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p*

29 *f* *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* edge

31 *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* center

edges of cymbals

33 *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* *mf*

(ord.)

37 *f* *pp* *ff* *p* 5

choose any drums/cymbals,
chaotic!

41 *mf* *pp*

sim.

43 *f* *pp*

45 *ff* *pp*

very tight +

muted all ringing cymbals ⊕

as if without warning