

The Drum Kit

Music

What each drum and cymbal is called, and what it usually does.

A standard five-piece kit, as written on a drum staff.

Piece	Notated	Job
Kick (bass drum)	Bottom space	The pulse, with the bass
Snare	Third space	The backbeat, 2 and 4
Hi-hat	X above the staff	The subdivision
Ride cymbal	X, upper line	Steady time, jazz and choruses
Crash cymbal	X with a circle	Accents and section starts
Rack toms	Middle spaces	Fills
Floor tom	Bottom space, below snare	Low fills

The basic rock beat: kick on 1 and 3, snare on 2 and 4, hi-hat on every eighth.