

RHYTHMIC NOTATION

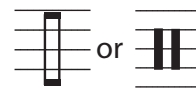
Reading Drummers' Shorthand

■ Many drummers start out “ear-trained.” That is, they learn by listening to other drummers and mimicking what they hear. While there’s nothing wrong with this approach, it’s impossible to become a well-rounded musician without also learning to read music.

Drum notation looks similar to notation used for other instruments. It contains standard symbols used to indicate time signature, rests, repeats, accents, etc., written on a standard musical staff (or stave). However, there are many unique symbols used for nonpitched percussion

instruments, and to further confuse the subject, symbols may vary from arranger to arranger. For this reason, a key is usually provided with percussive notation. Listed below are some commonly used symbols.

Instead of a bass or treble clef, the small box-like rhythm/percussion clef is used:



Various symbols and their positions on the lines of the staff often define which instrument is to be played:

Other symbols indicate playing techniques:

<p>Ghost Notes: play very lightly.</p>	<p>Choked: touched to stop vibration.</p>	<p>Sticking: shows required pattern.</p>	<p>Rolls: indicated by slashes, 1=8th note, 2=16th note, etc.</p>
<p>Fill: improvise phrase based on the musical context.</p>	<p>Flams: indicate a grace note played slightly ahead of a main note.</p>	<p>Drags or Ruffs: indicate more than one grace note.</p>	<p>Rim Shot: strike head and rim together</p>

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