FULL COURSE

How To Count And Read Drum 🥁 Music 🎶 and Rhythm

The "Mechanics" Of Music

The Music Staff

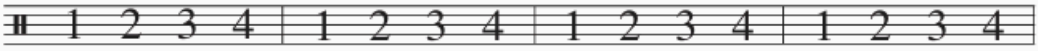
The music staff is used to place all of the notes in position to read.

What Is A Measure?

It is a measurement in music that is equally divided by using bar lines.

Subdividing A Measure

The measure is then divided into subdivisions called beats.
Within a measure, there can be various amounts of beats.
The below example shows four equal beats in the measure:



What Is A Time Signature?

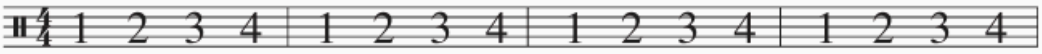
A time signature is shown as a 2-part fraction that tells you how many beats are in a measure, and the basic subdivision.

4 = How many beats per measure

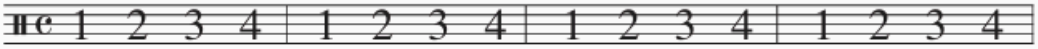
-

4 = What is the subdivision that receives one count.
In this case, it is the quarter note.

In the below example, the time signature is placed at the beginning of the measure.



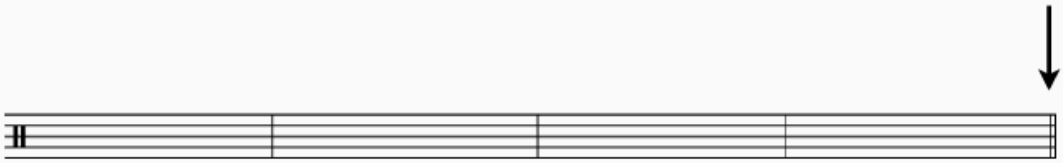
4/4 is also known as "Common Time". It can also be marked with a "C".



Staff Endings

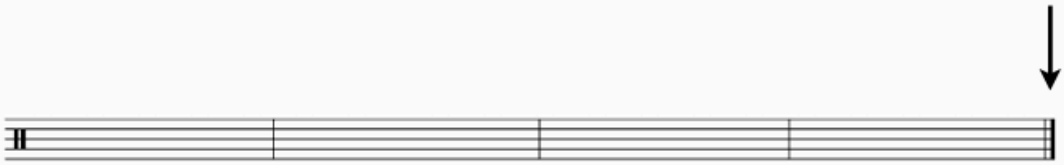
Section Bars

Section bars are double lines that signify the end of a music section.



Double Bars

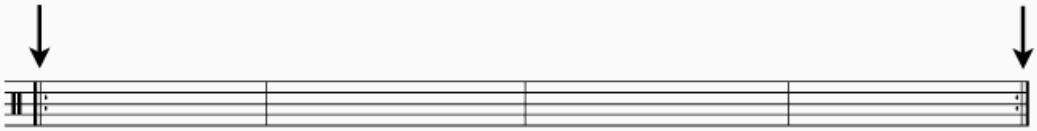
A double bar is bold and placed at the end of a line of music
to signify the end of a song.



Section Repeat Signs

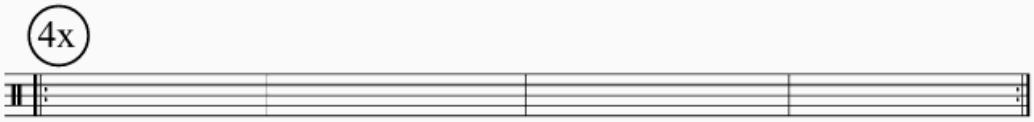
Repeat Bars

Double bars with two dots next to them, in the 2nd and 3rd spaces of the staff are called repeat signs. The section between these signs is to be repeated.



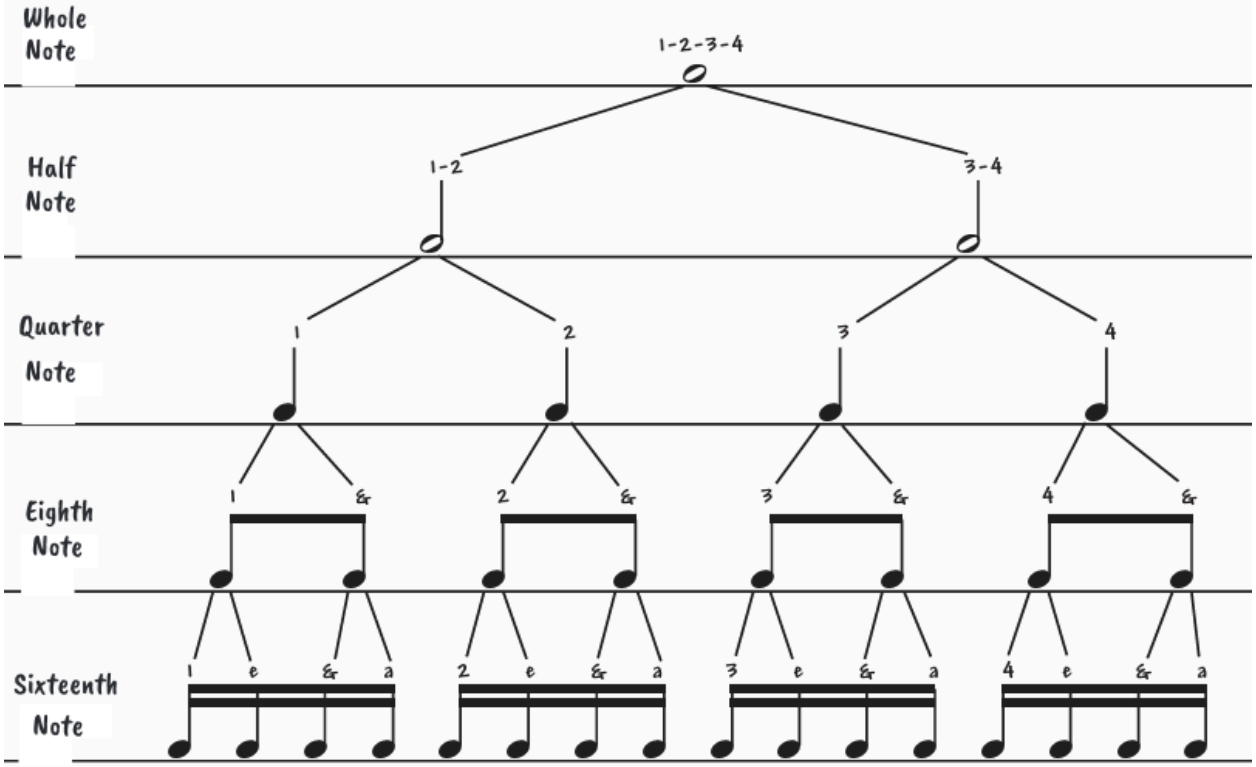
Repeating Sections Multiple Times

If a section is to be played more than twice, the number of times it is to be played is followed by the letter "X".
In this example the four bar phrase is to be played four times.



The Essential Rhythm Tree Of Subdivisions

Based 4 beat counting, here is how basic rhythms are subdivided and notated:



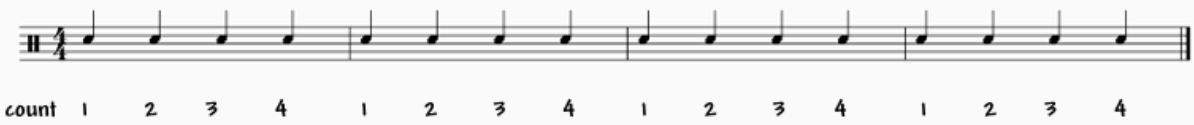
Placing Quarter Notes On The Staff With A Time Signature

In this example there are:

4 = 4 beats per measure

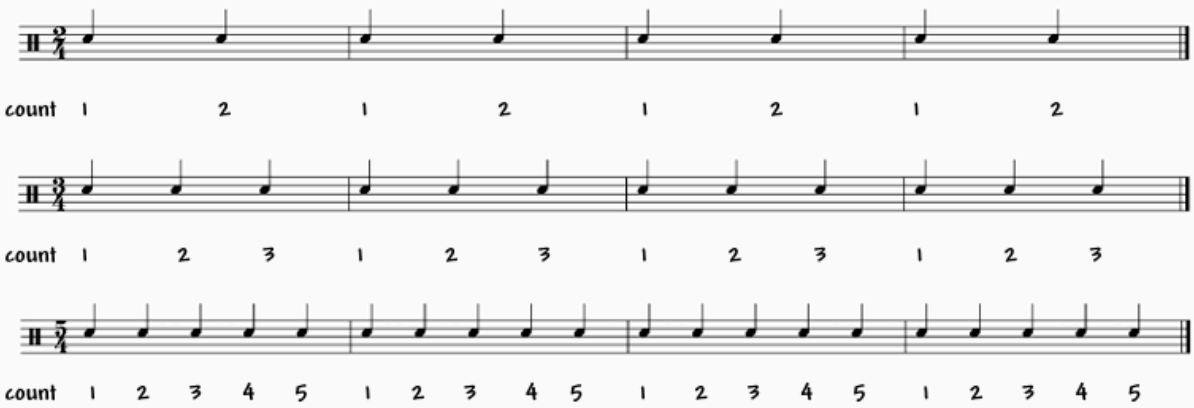
-

4 = The quarter note receives one count



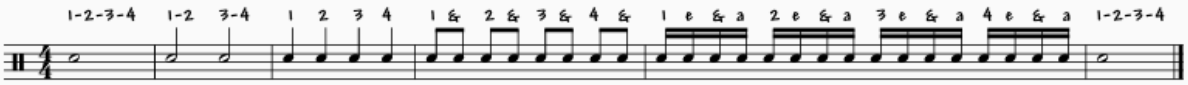
Changing The Amount Of Beats Per Measure

By changing the top number, we create new time signatures of varying lengths.



Placing The Rhythm Tree In The Measure

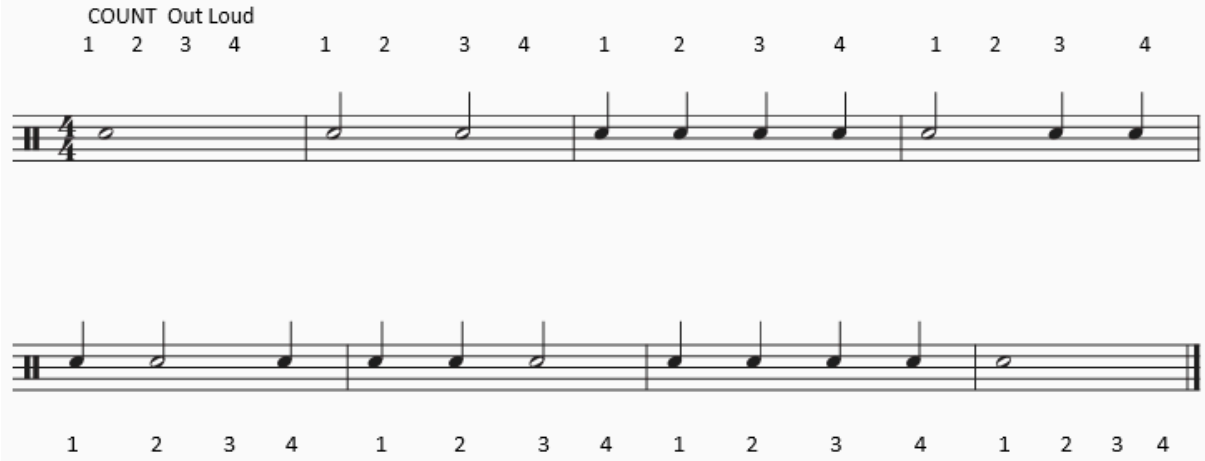
Now put the rhythm tree in the measures with a time signature of 4/4.



This concludes the basic mechanics of music notation.

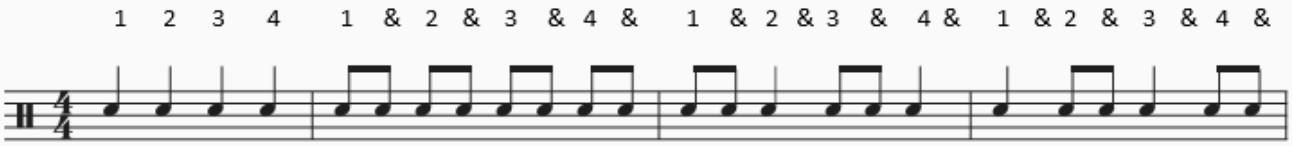
Now let's move on to the reading examples.

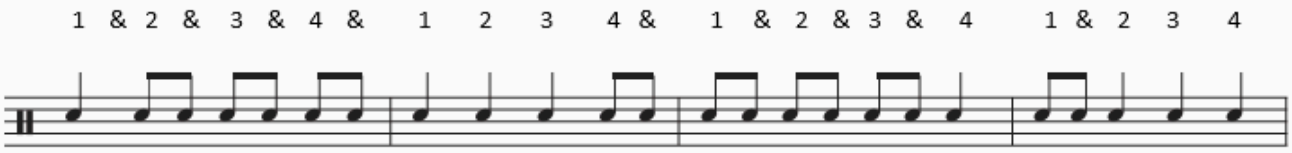
Whole Notes, Half Notes, and Quarter Notes



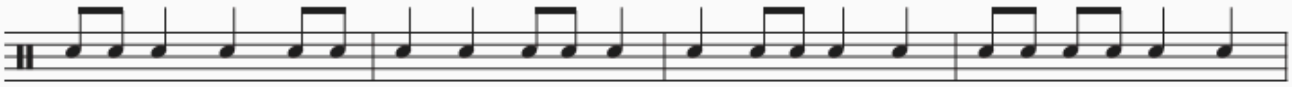
1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

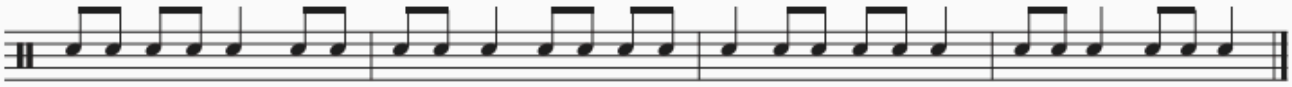
Quarter Notes and Eighth Notes





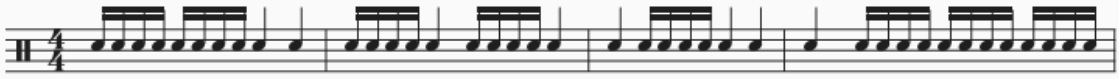
Continue To Count Out Loud like above... then start to tap your foot on the quarter note as you vocalize the written rhythm . * Sing the notes twice as loud as your background vocal count.





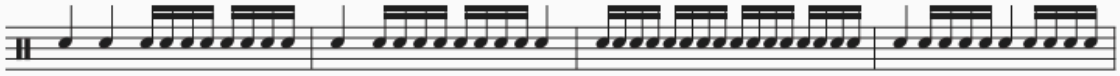
Quarter Notes and Sixteenth Notes

*Count Out loud while tapping your foot to quarter notes

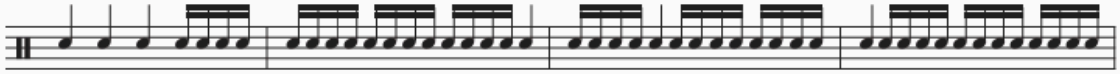


1 e & ah **2**e & ah **3** **4** **1** e & ah **2** **3** e& ah **4** **1** **2** **3** **4** **1** **2** **3** **4**

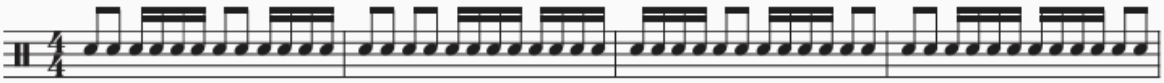
1 **2** **3** e&ah **4**e&ah **1** **2**e&ah **3**e&ah**4**

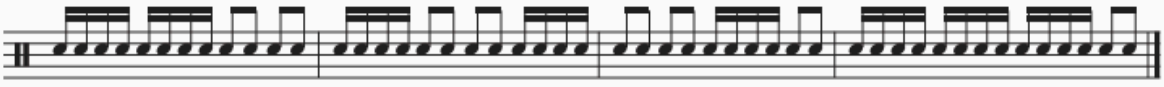


Continue out loud as above...

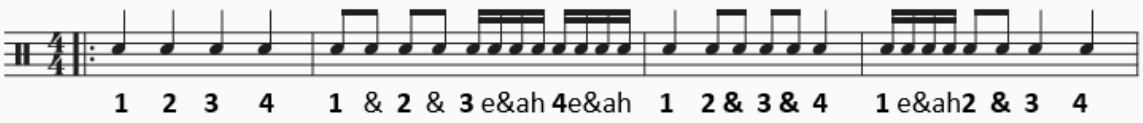


Using Eighth and Sixteenth Notes

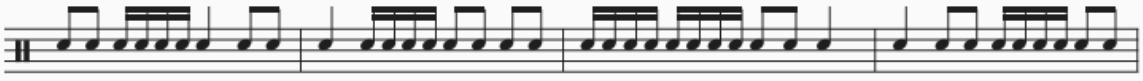


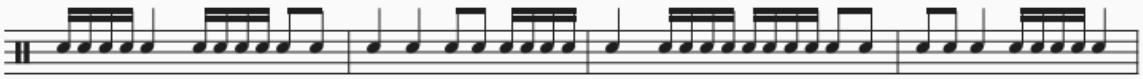


Using Quarter, Eighth, and Sixteenth Notes, With Repeats



Breathe and Count the WRITTEN NOTEs LOUDER and the spaces in between softer...





Continue as before to tap your right foot on quarters and vocally count out loud the written rhythms twice as loud as your background count. Please see and listen to the audio/ video example.

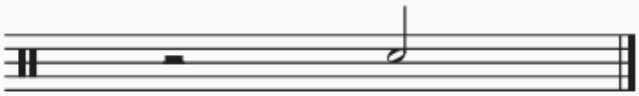
Introducing Rests

Let's start with the Whole, Half, and Quarter note rests.

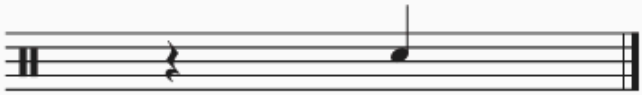
Here is what each rest looks like as well as it's duration:

Whole Note Rest= 4 Beats

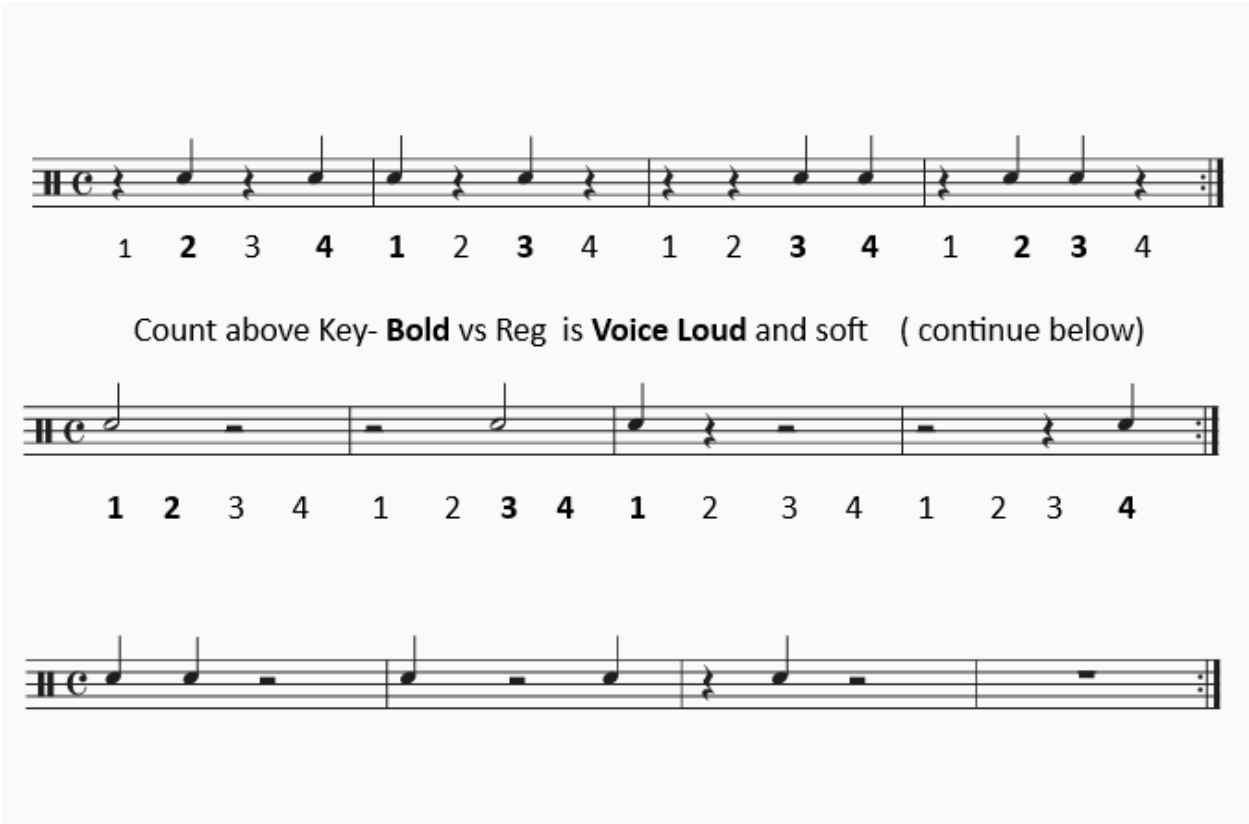
Half Note Rest= 2 Beats



Quarter Note Rest= 1 Beat



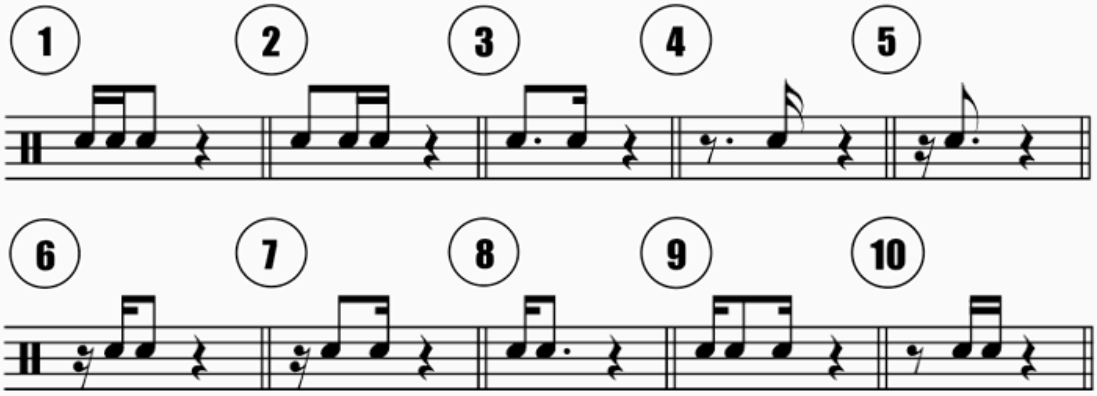
Let's Put all 3 rests into a Musical context of counting.



How To Count and Read 16ths

All 9 Chart

Use this sheet to drill each rhythmic sound picture, repeating randomly around the sheet. This will improve Reaction, Response, and Retention!

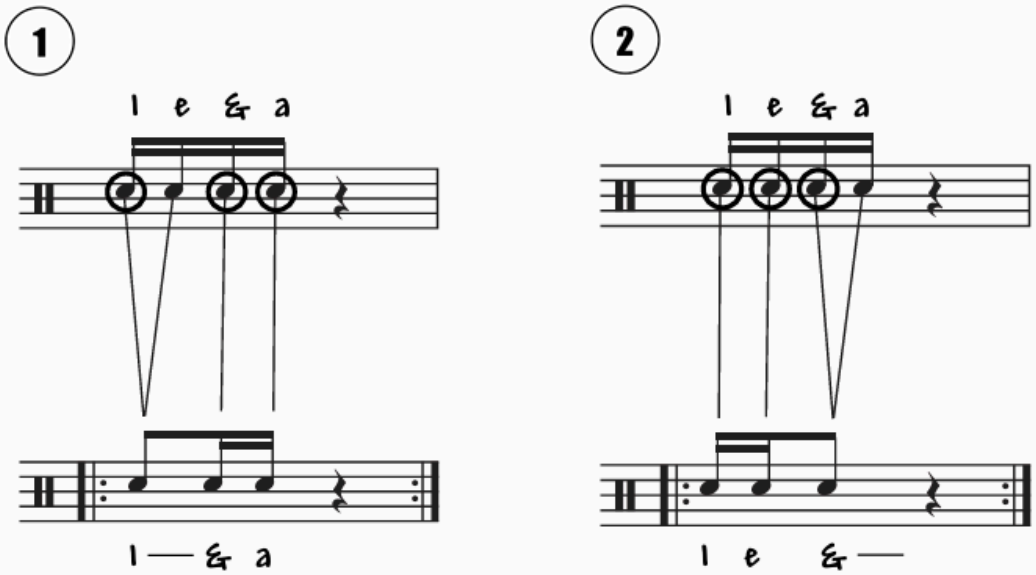


How to Read Eighth & Sixteenth Rhythm Combinations

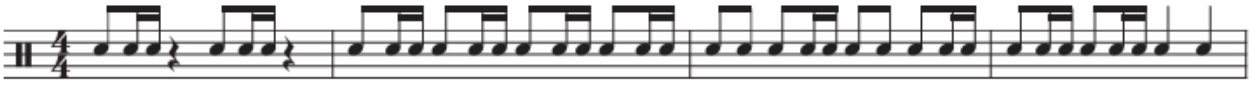
There are 9 different eighth and sixteenth rhythmic combinations.

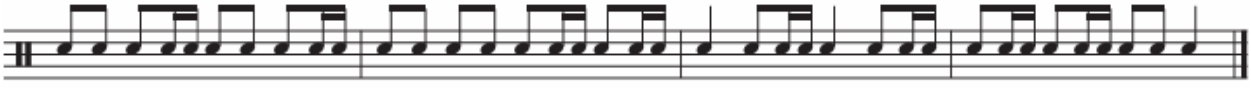
Once we learn them, we will use the concepts of the "Sound Pictures"
to memorize how each rhythm sounds and looks.

"Sound Picture" Rhythms 1 & 2

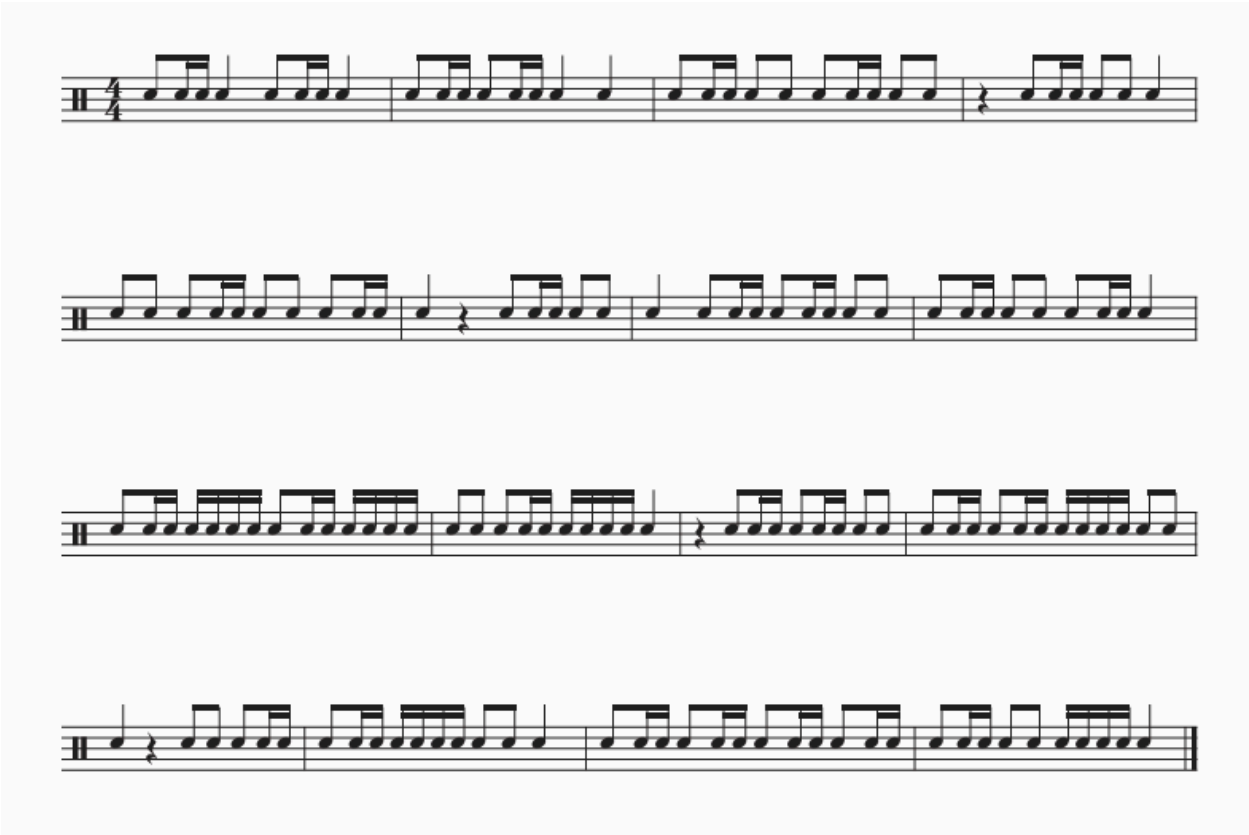


"And -Ah" Practice



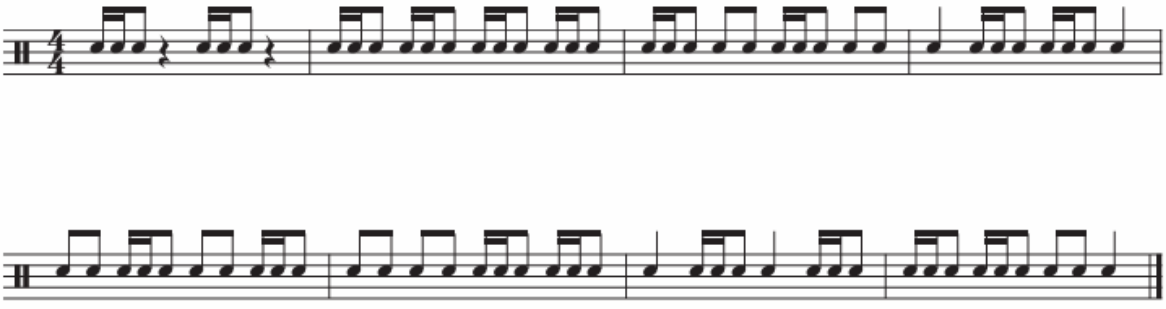


“An-da” and 16ths Combo

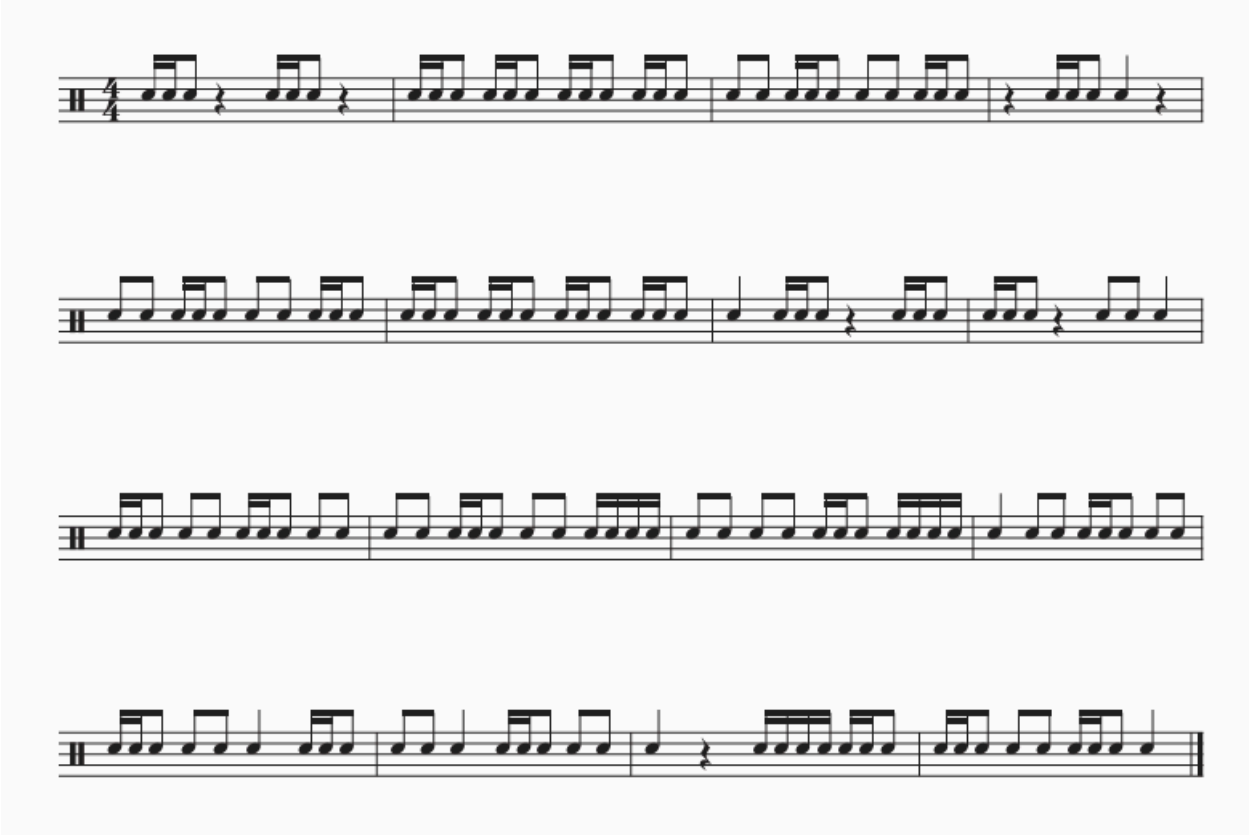


Don't’ Forget To Count Out Loud

E- And” Practice



E- And Combo



Reading Tips For Eighth & Sixteenth Note Combinations

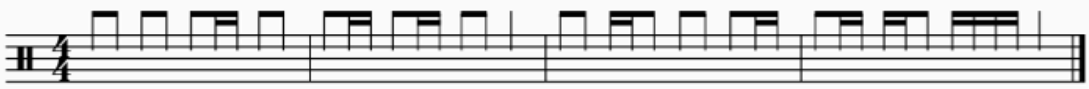
Now would be a good time to discuss where to look while you're reading.

Q: "Where should my eyes focus when reading sixteenth notes?"

A: Focus on the "top" of the bar, not on the "note head" itself.

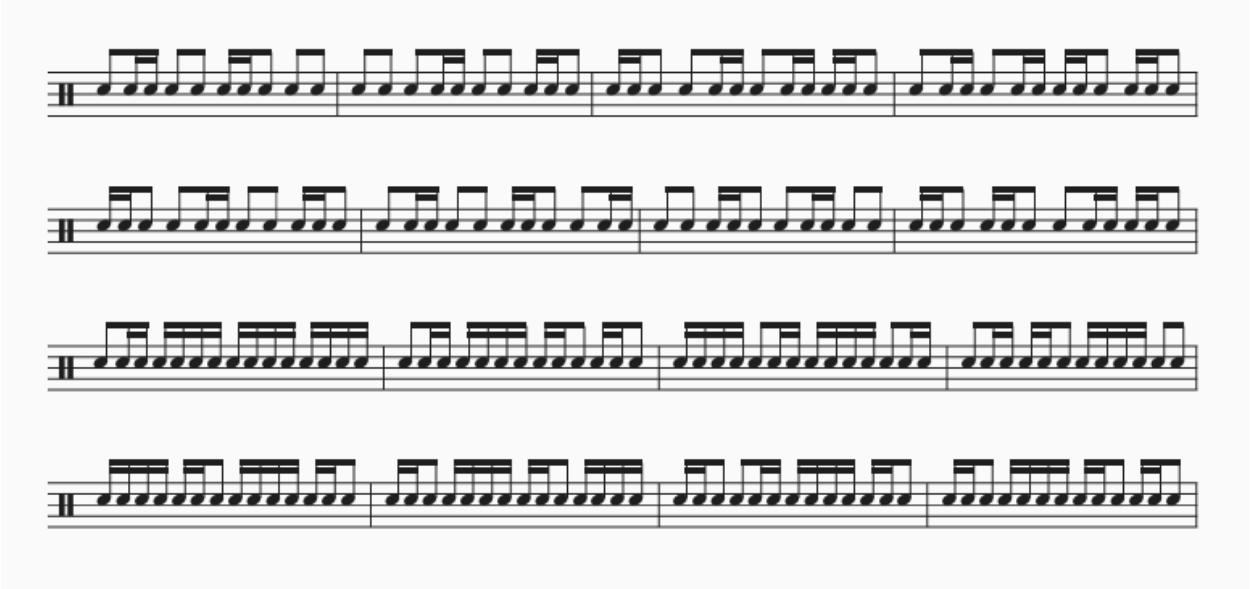
The "stems" of the notes are where the subdivisions are located.

Here is an example using just the top stems of the rhythm.



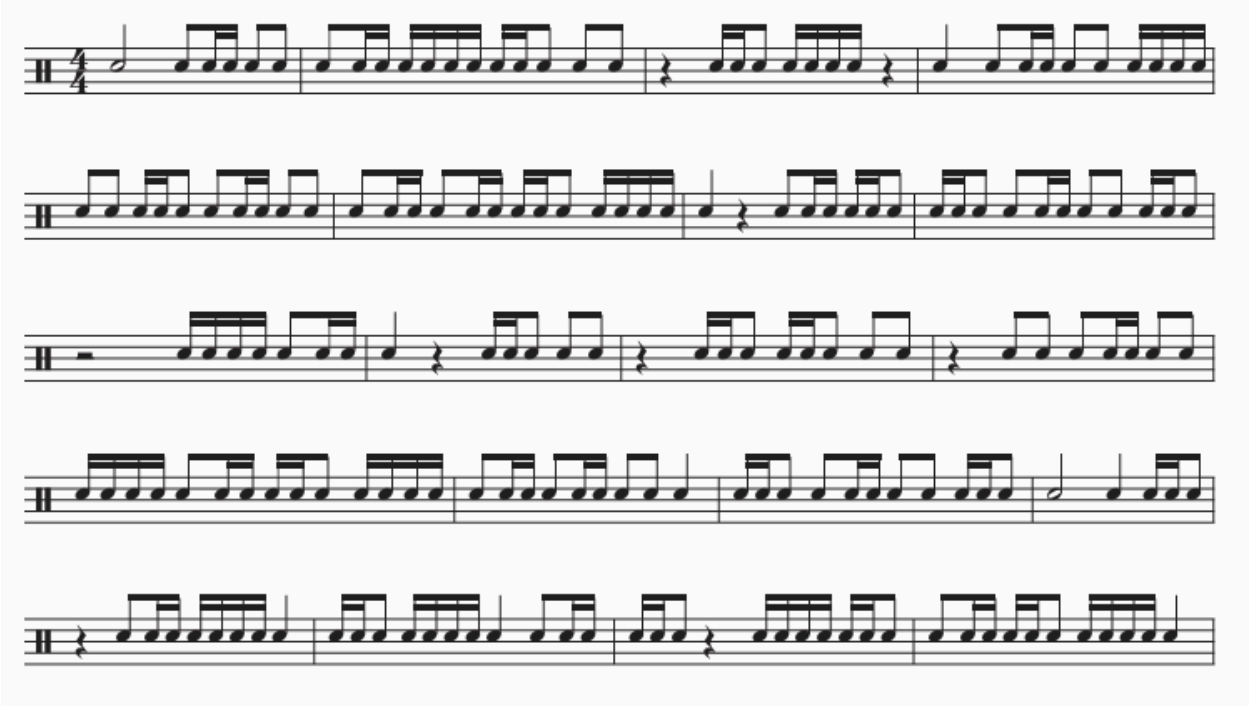
Count 1& 2& 3-&-a4 & 1 &-a2&-a3& 4 1 & 2-e-&3 &4&-a 1 &-a2-e&3-e-&-a4

Here is a fun 16th note combo-



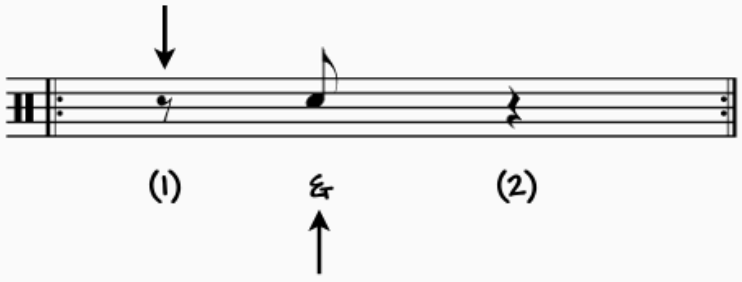
Make sure to get all the syllables out clearly and cleanly also see if you can start tapping your foot to quarter note count while voicing the notes out loud.

Let’s Try a Combo of Everything We've Learned…



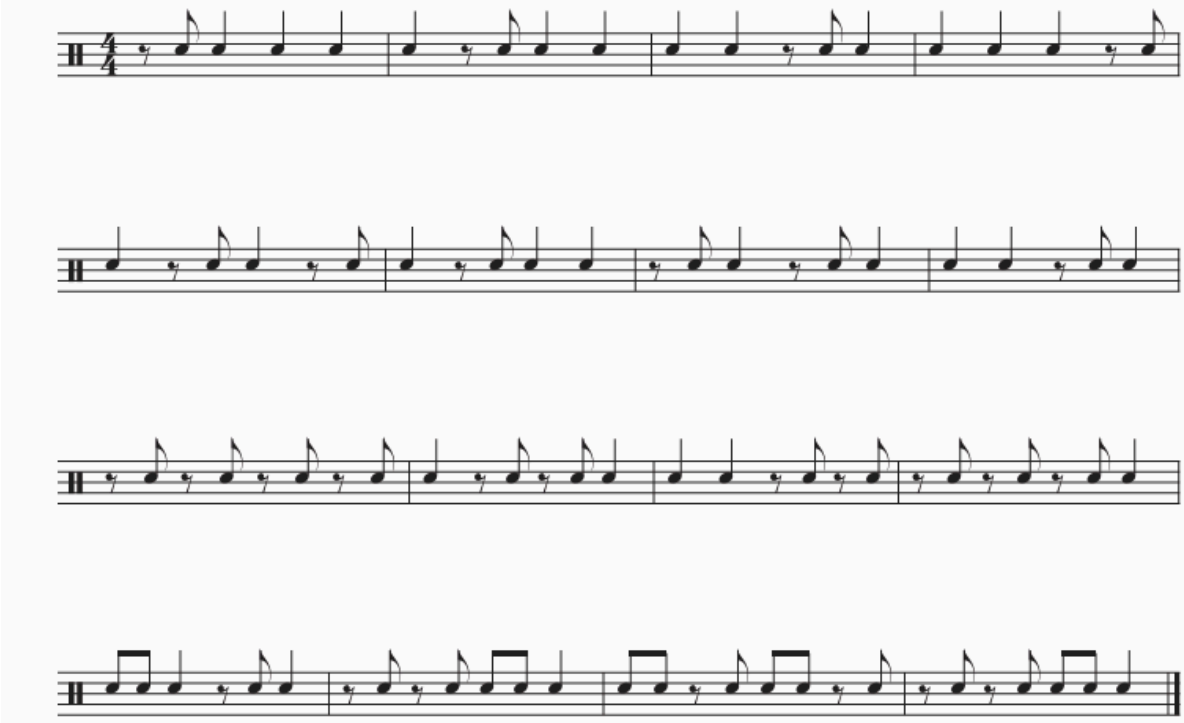
Syncopation with 8th Note Rests

Here is how an eighth note rest looks. It receives the value of one eighth note.



A single eighth note has one "flag".

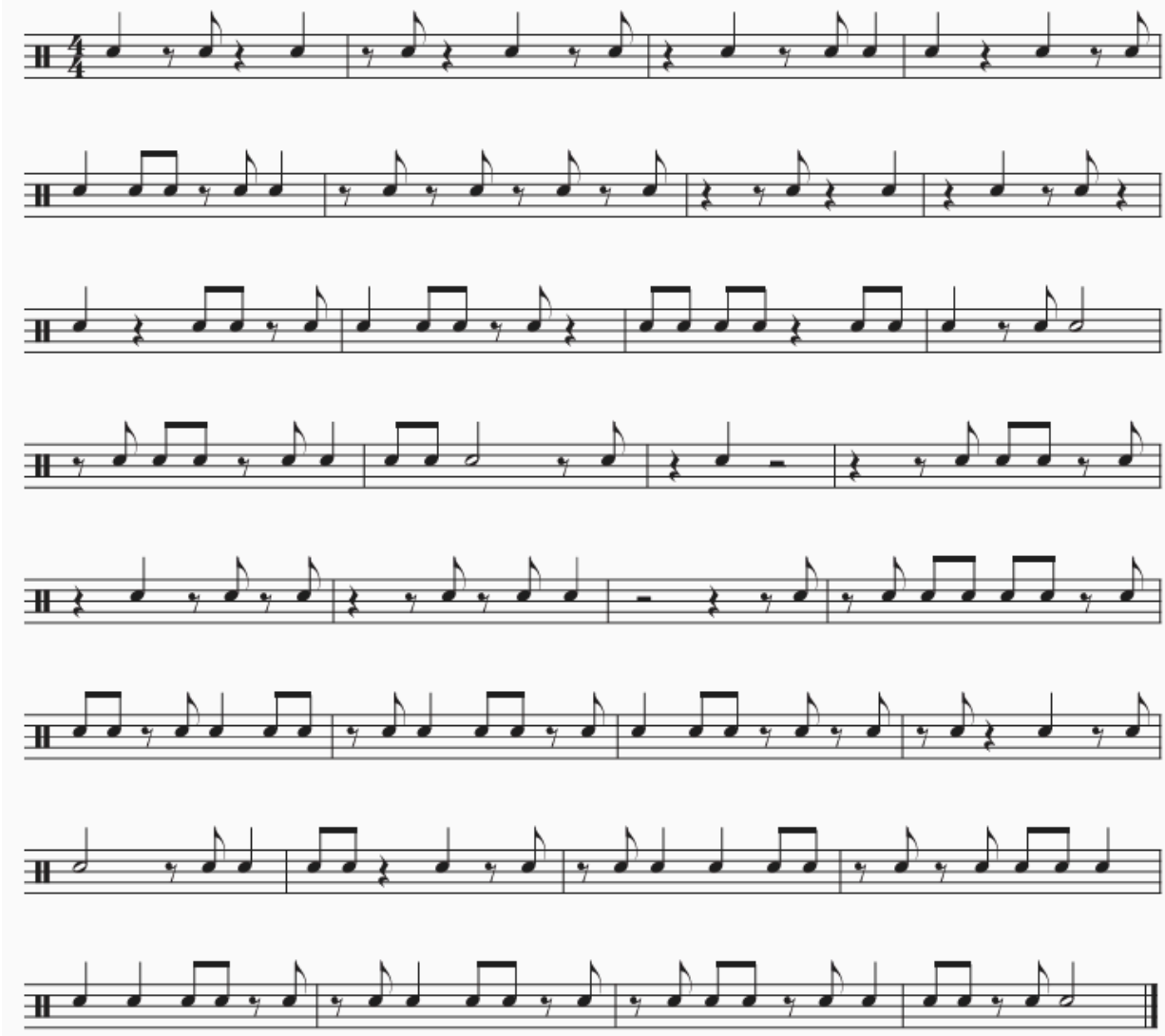
Quarter Notes and Eighth Notes Using Eighth Note Rests



1. Here is where counting out loud gets trickier. Try to allow your voice that counts the background eighth notes to be consistent and **Soft** while the written rhythm or notes get a clear loud voice. It takes practice but it's way worth it ! You will use the same concept in your playing and executing of ACCENTED LOUD notes in contrast to super soft ghostnotes or UNACCENTED NOTES when you start using technique soon.

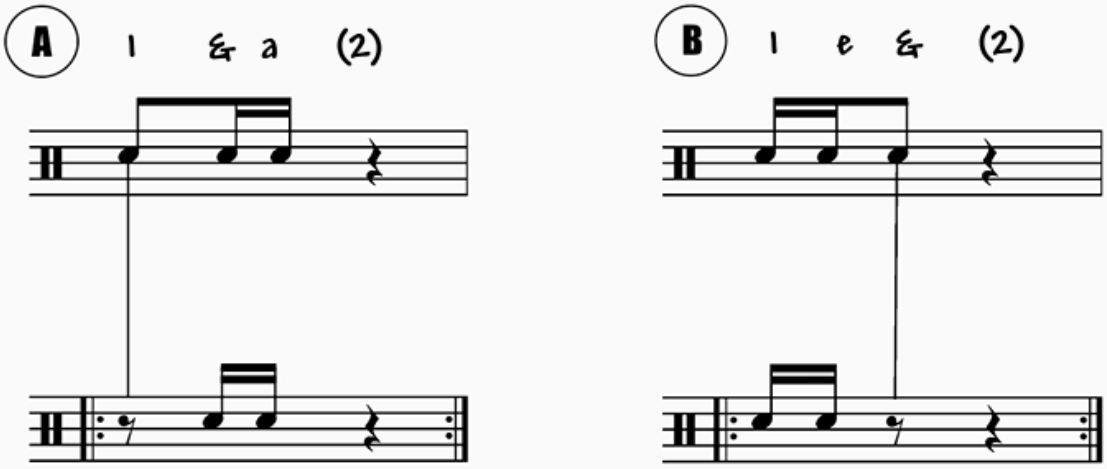
2. Tap your foot to quarter notes when you sing or play any rhythm.

Using Half, Quarter, and Eighth Notes With Rests

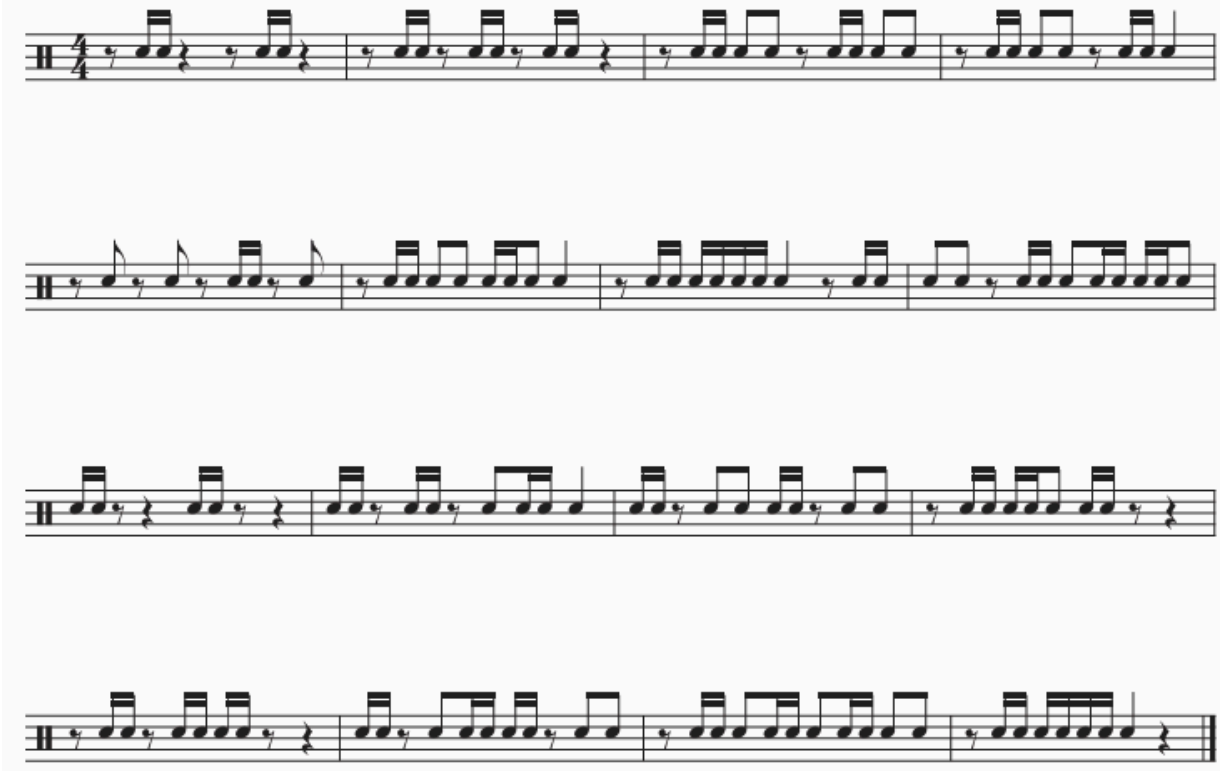


Combining Eighth Rests With Sixteenths

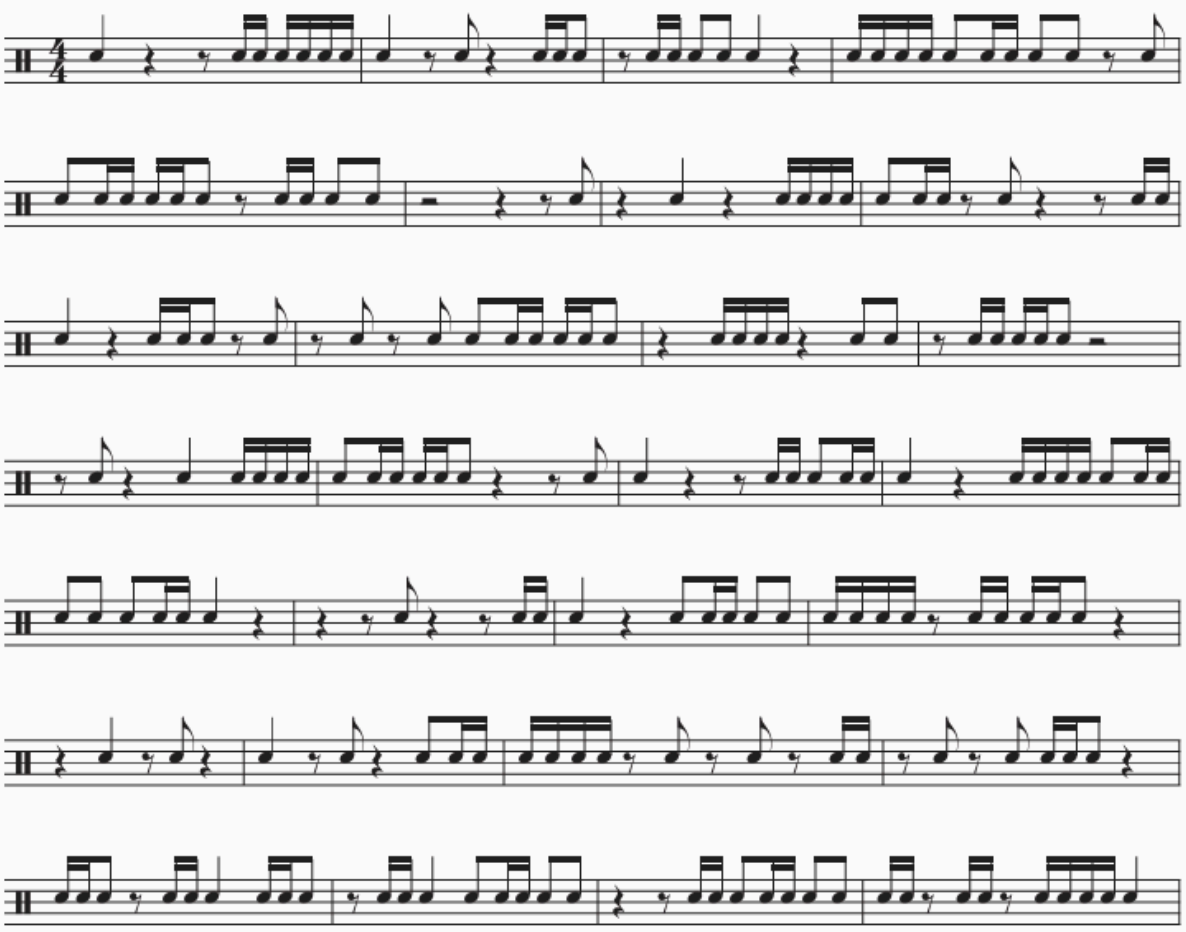
Replace an Eighth Note With an Eighth Note Rest



Using Eighth Rest With Quarter, Eighth, and Sixteenth Notes



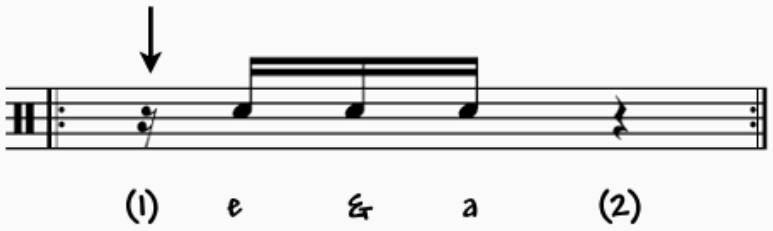
Using All Rhythms and Rests Learned So Far



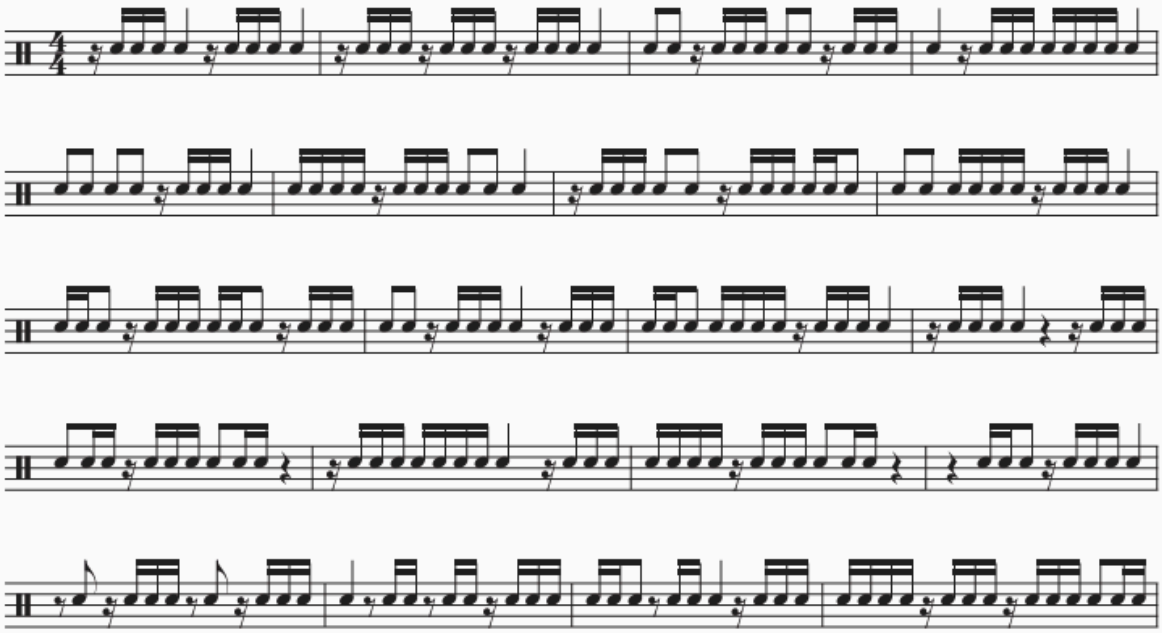
Introducing Sixteenth Note Rests

Here is how a sixteenth note rest looks.

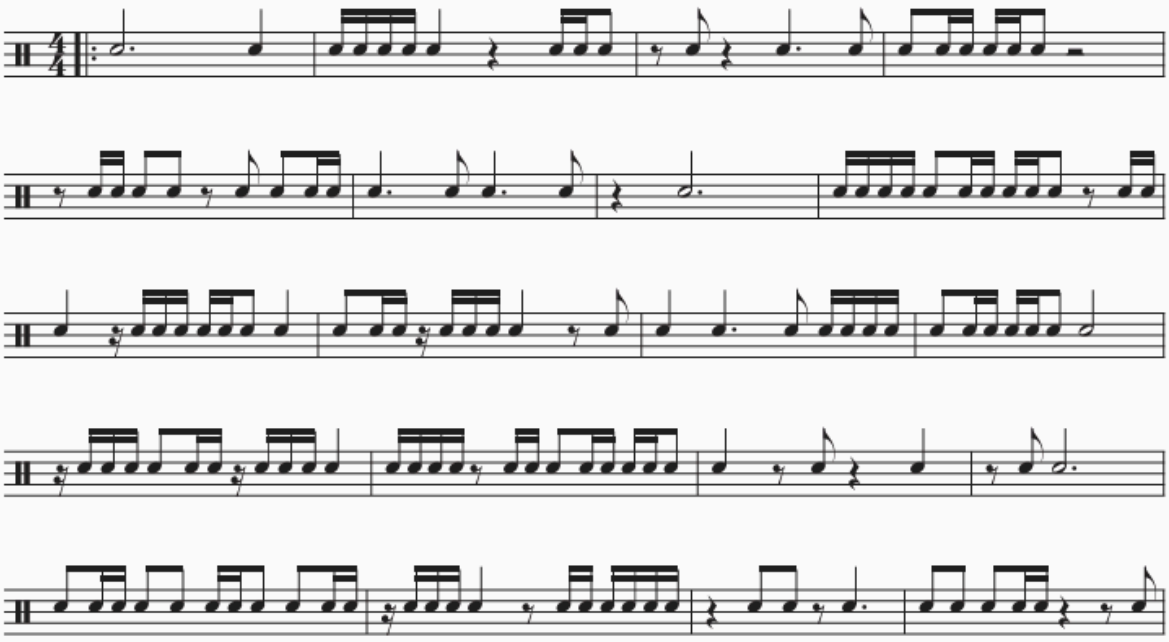
It receives the value of one sixteenth note, and has a double "flag".



Focusing On Sixteenth Note Rests

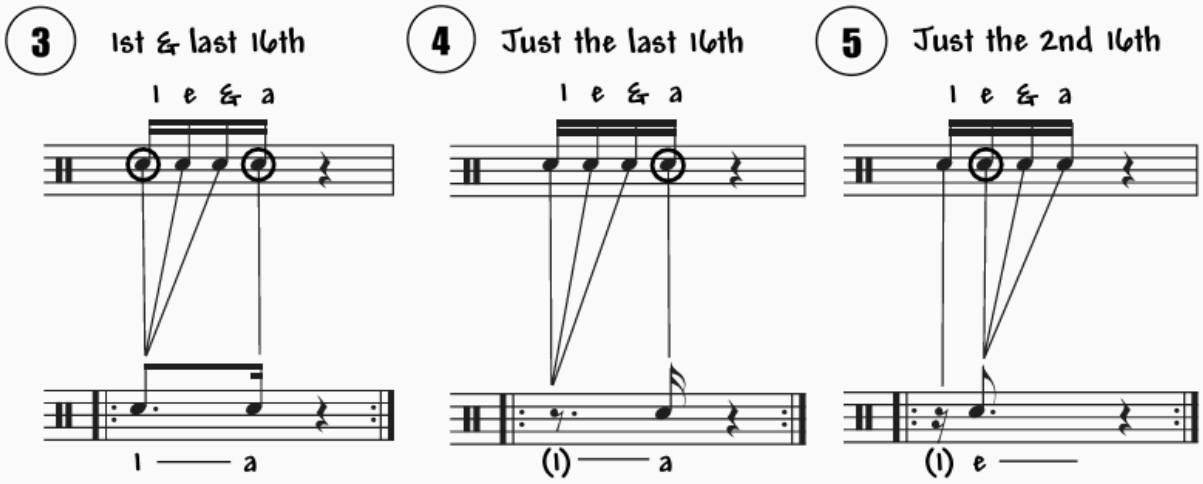


Using All Rhythms and Rests Learned So Far, With Repeats

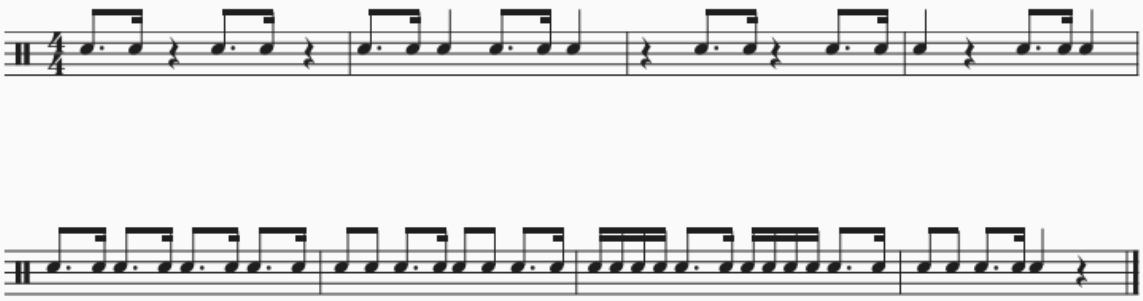


How to Read Dotted Eighth & Sixteenth Rhythms

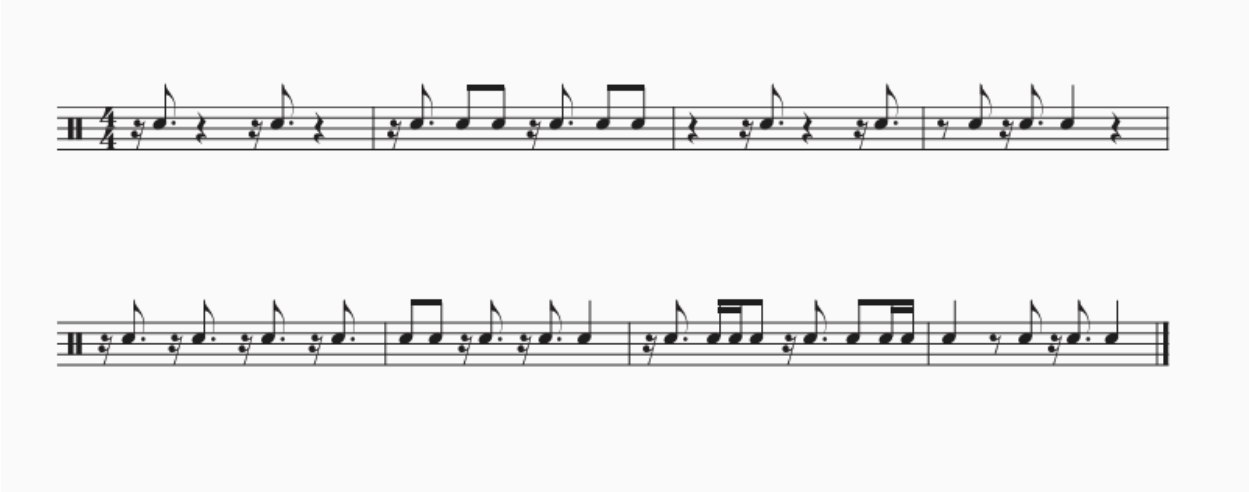
“Sound Picture” Rhythms 3, 4, & 5



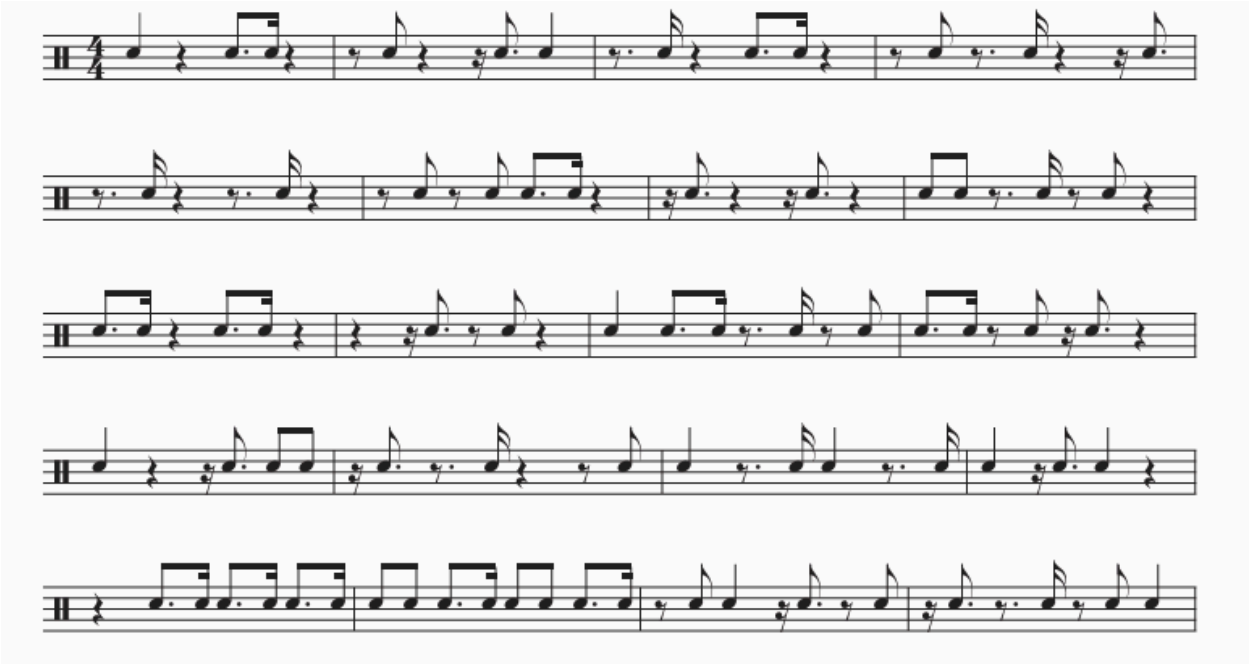
Sound Picture Rhythm 3 Practice



More practice on the ‘E’

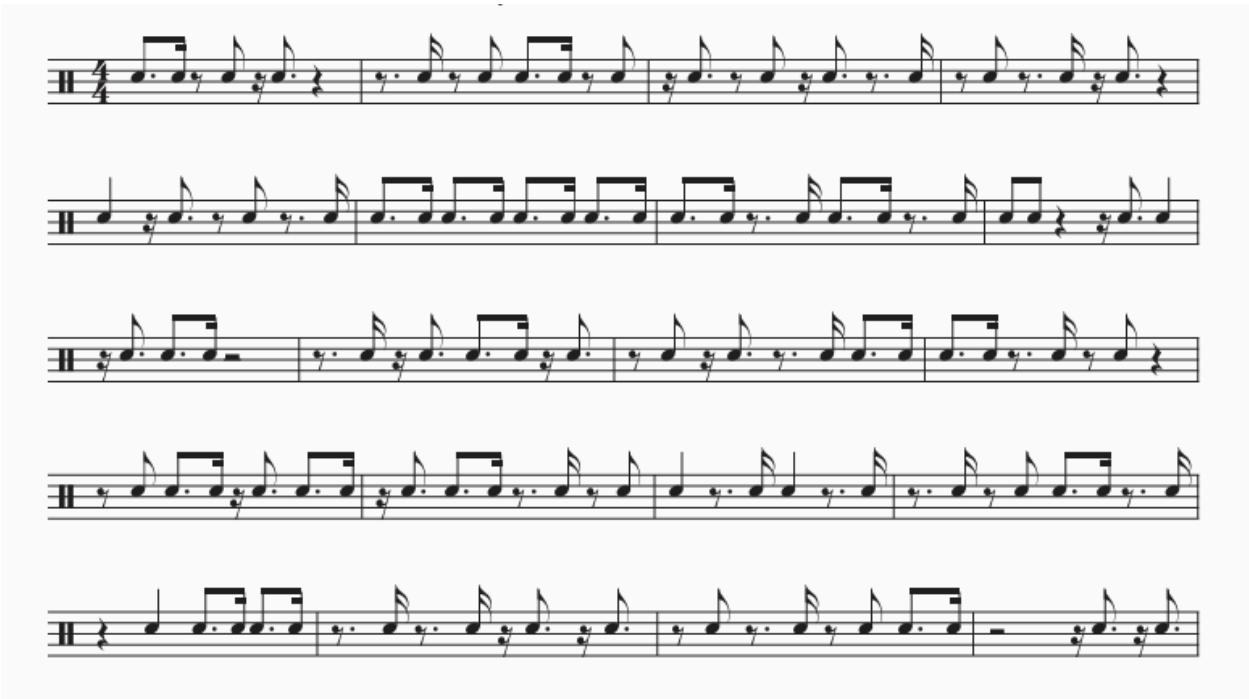


Combo practice each space 16th notes E-&-Ah

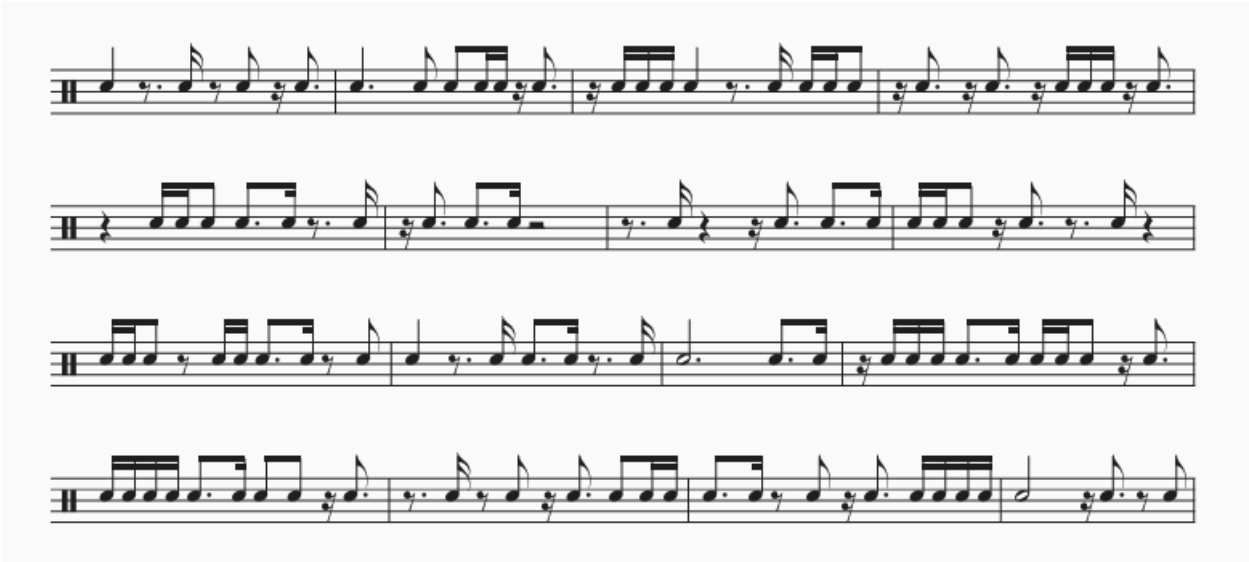


Everything So Far- Combined

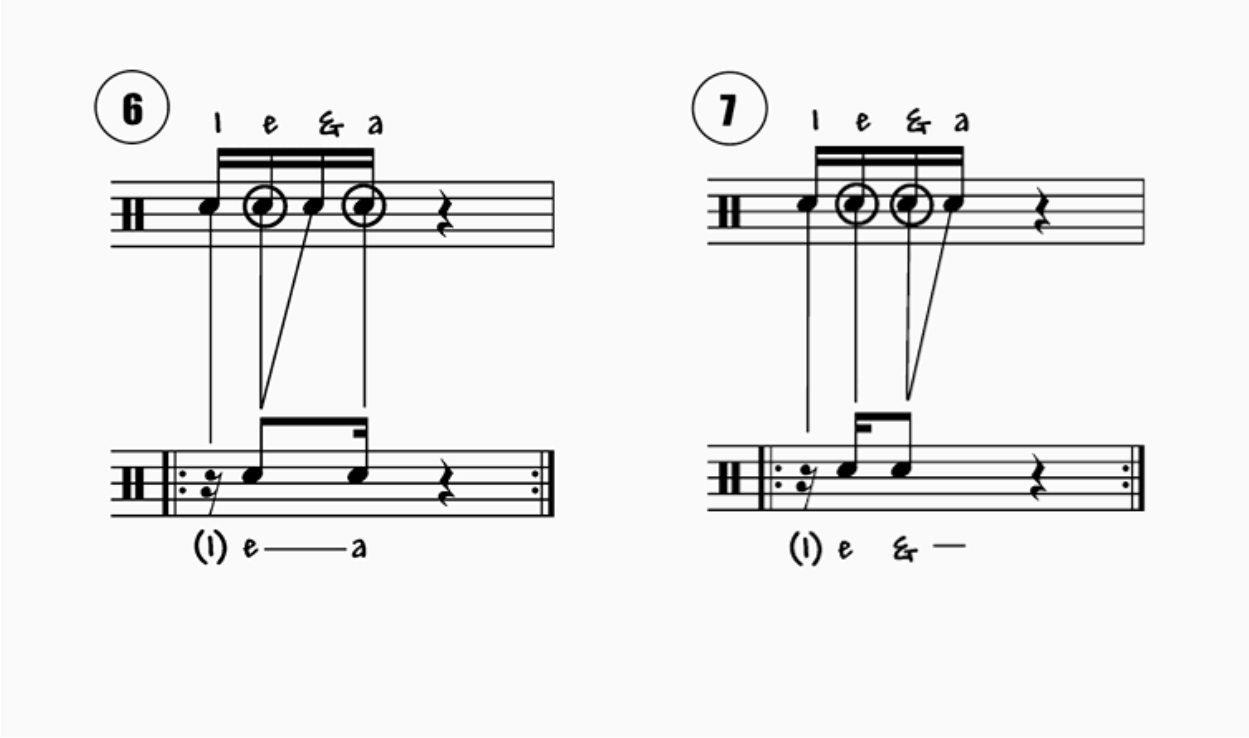
1.



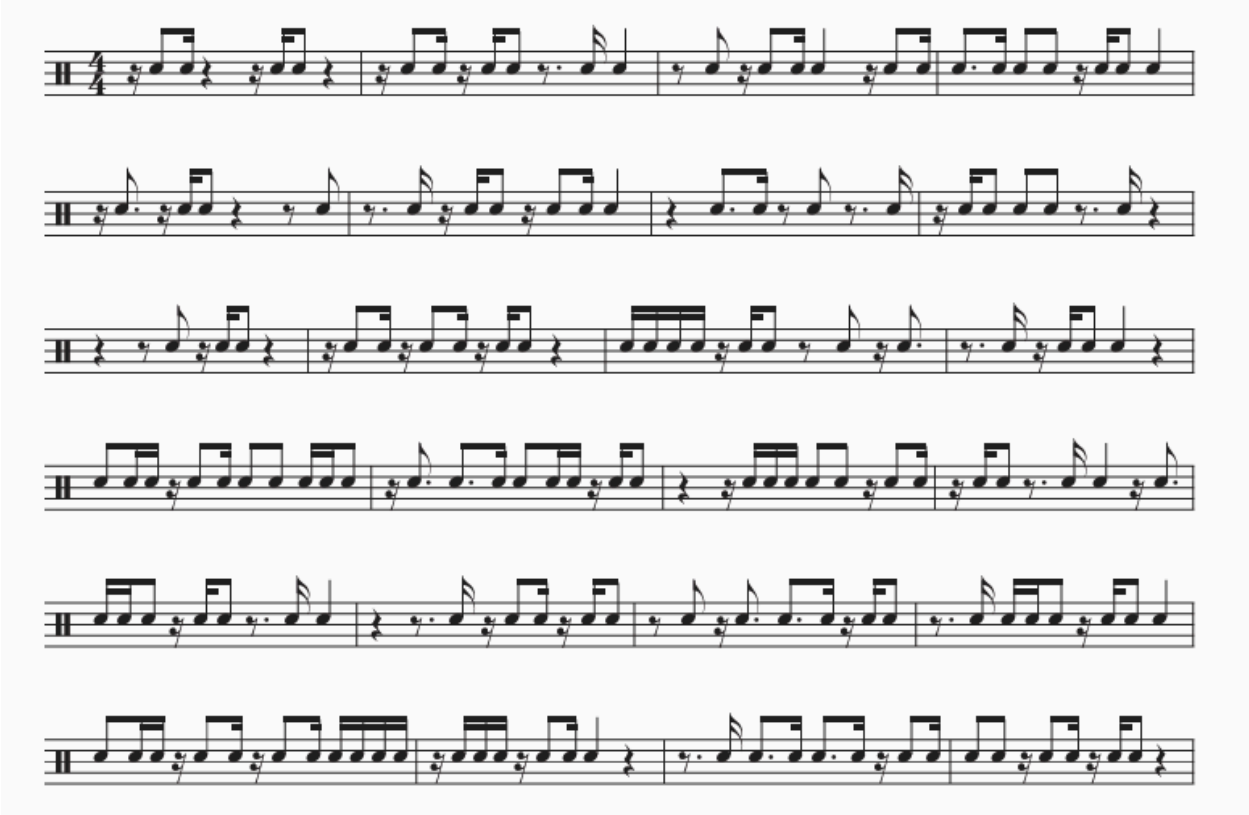
2.



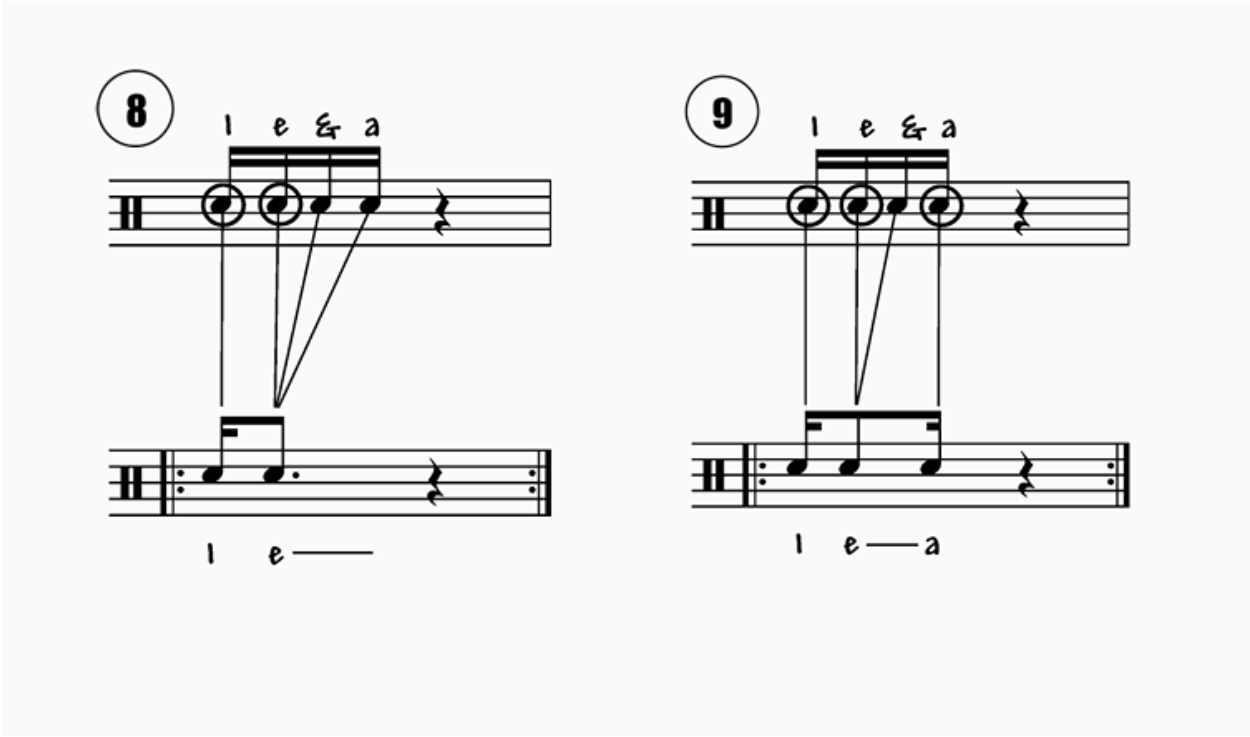
E-Ah , and E &



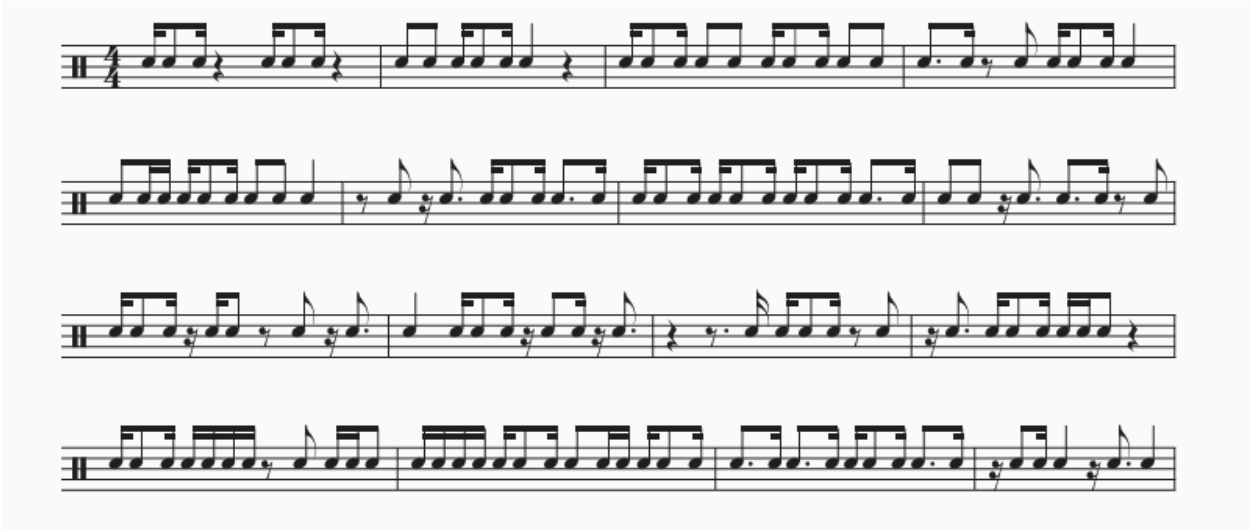
Combo practice e-ah, e&



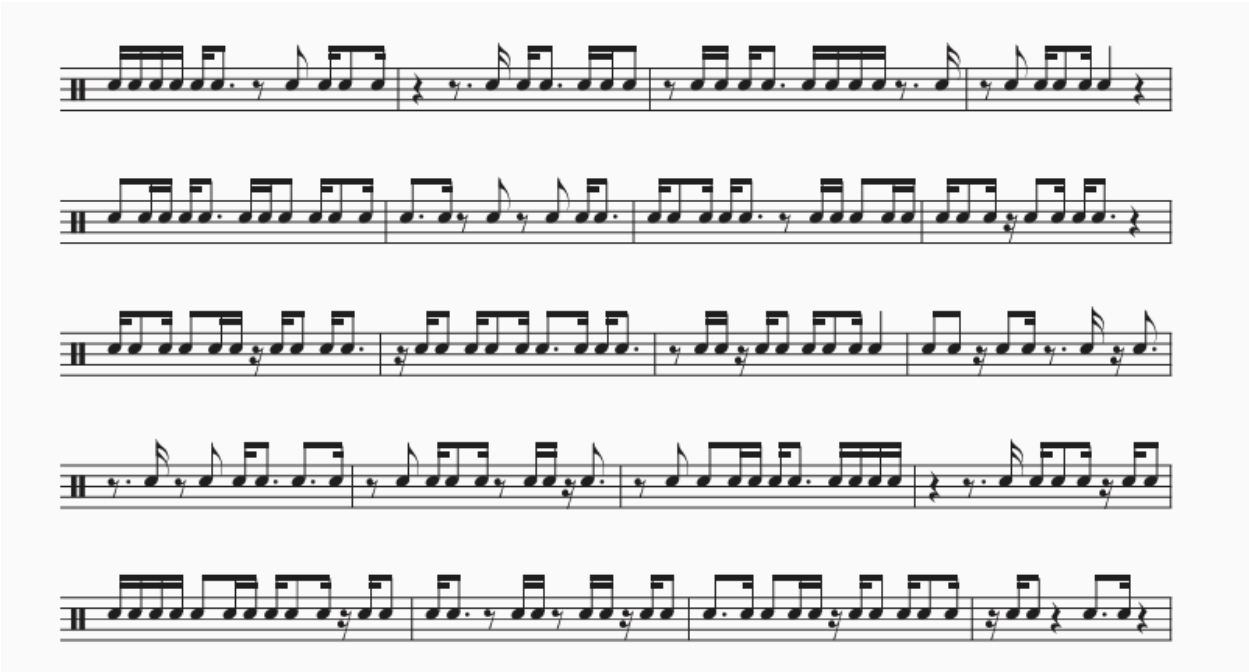
1-E, and 1E-Ah



Practice 1-e and 1-e-ah

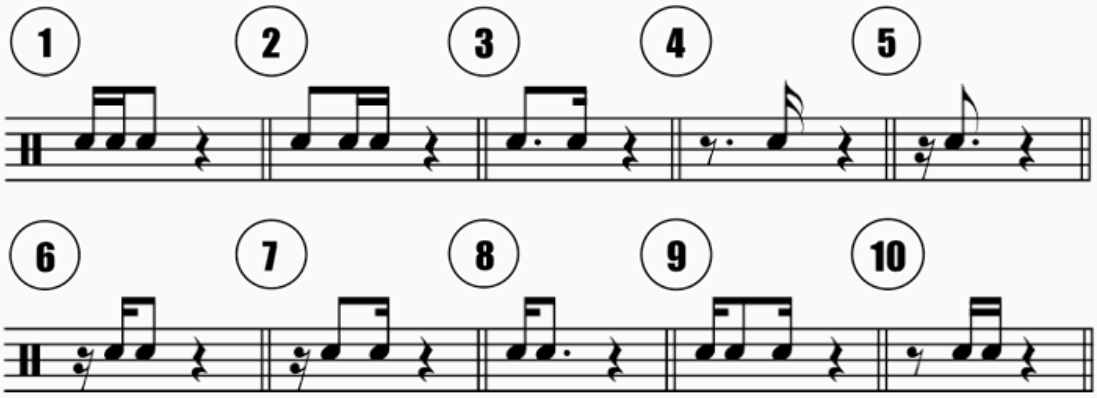


All 16ths and Rests COMBO

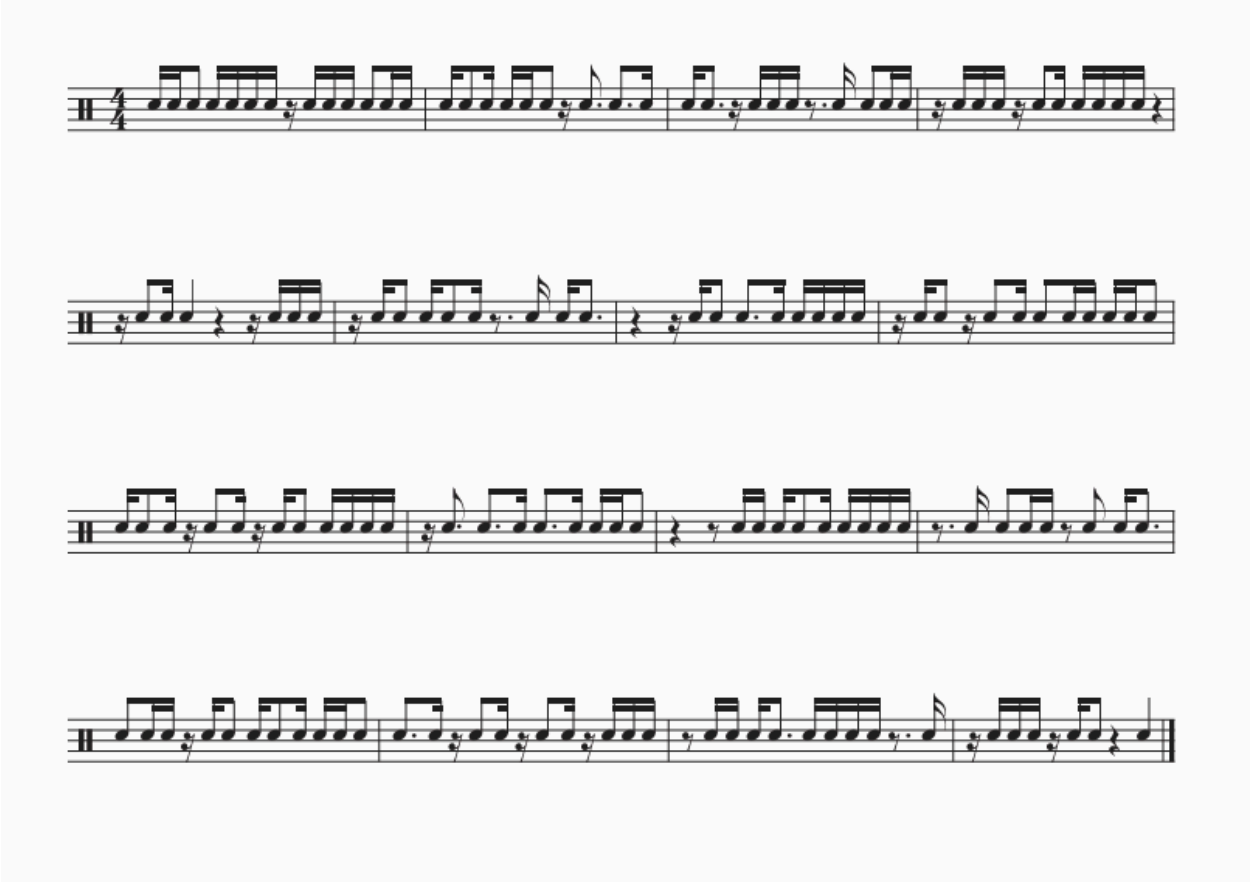


REVIEW 16ths Positions

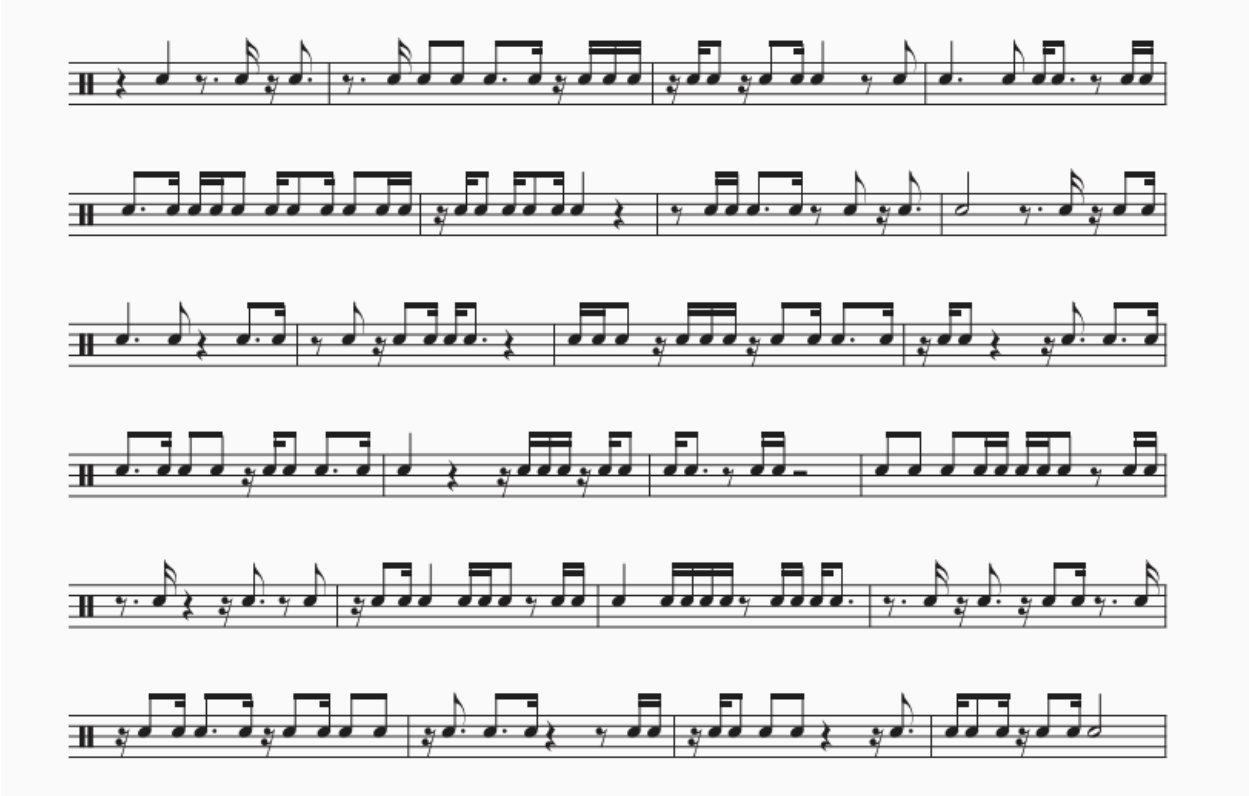
Use this sheet to drill each rhythmic sound picture, repeating randomly around the sheet. This will improve Reaction, Response, and Retention!



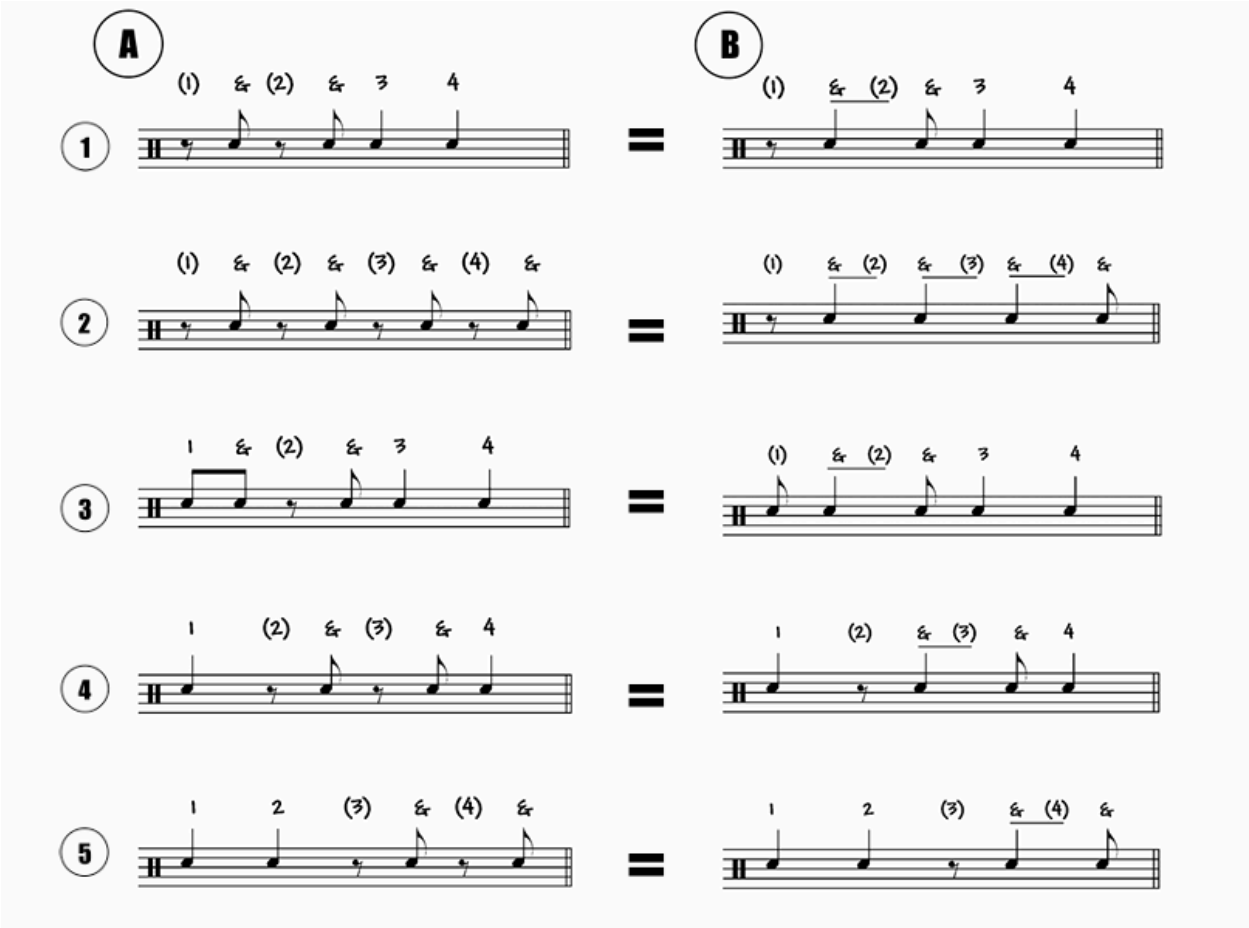
Lot’s a 16ths



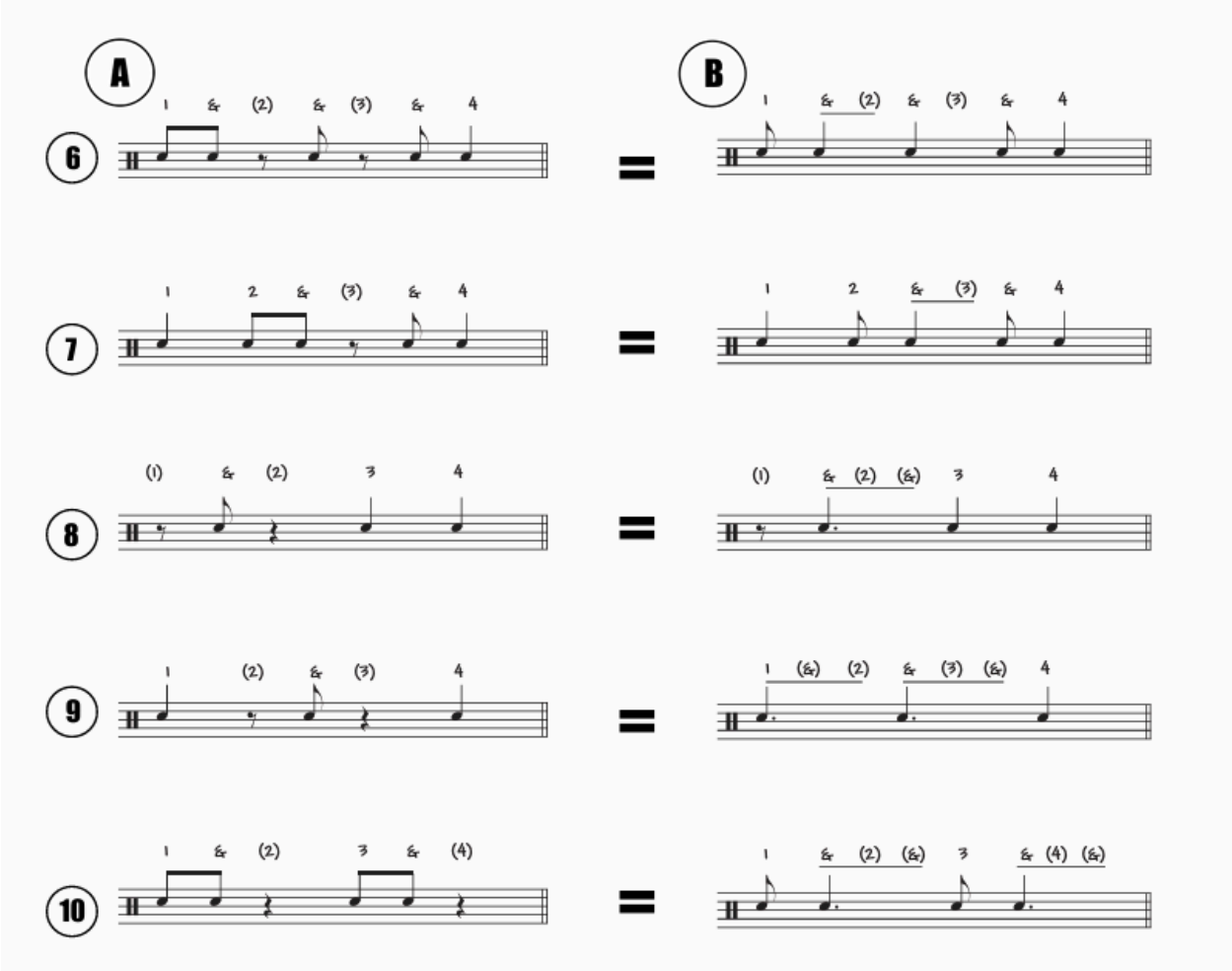
FINAL QUIZ



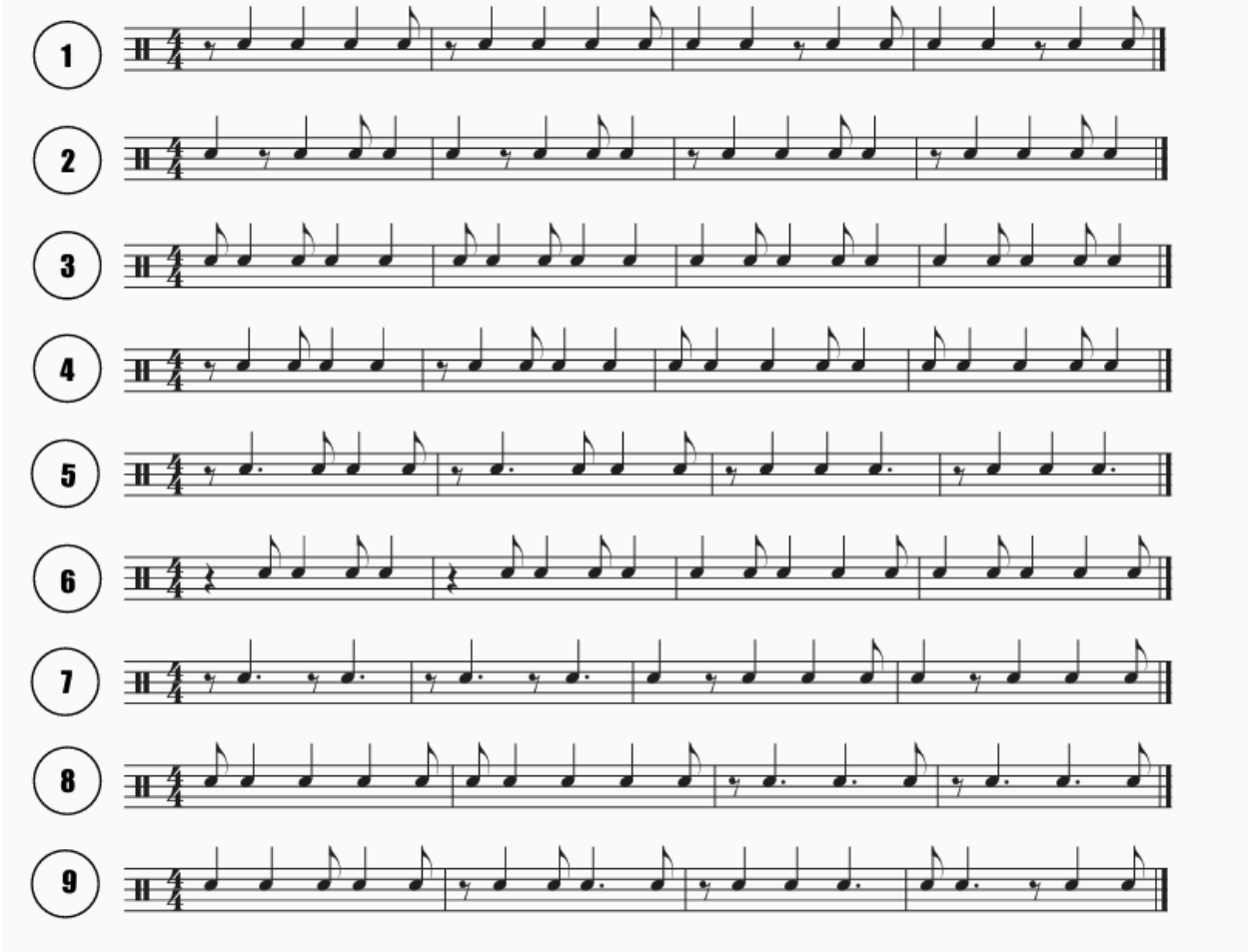
SYNCOPATION 1. Converting ¼'s and 8ths to syncopation



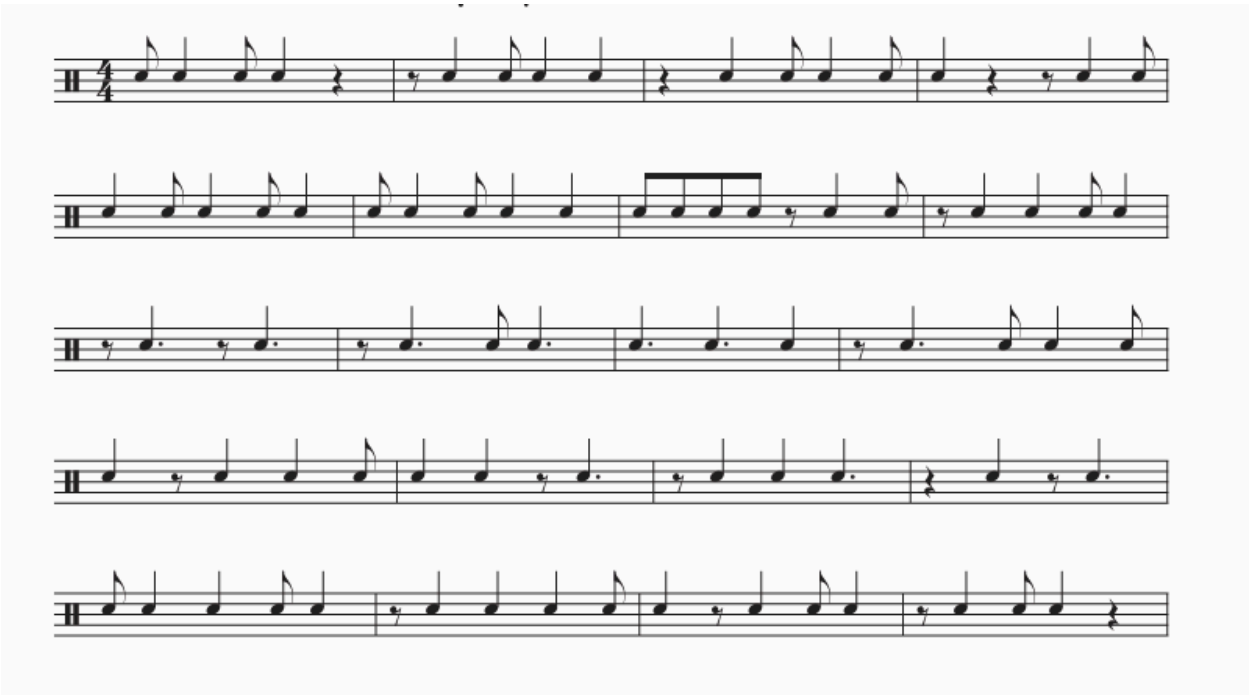
Syncopation 2.



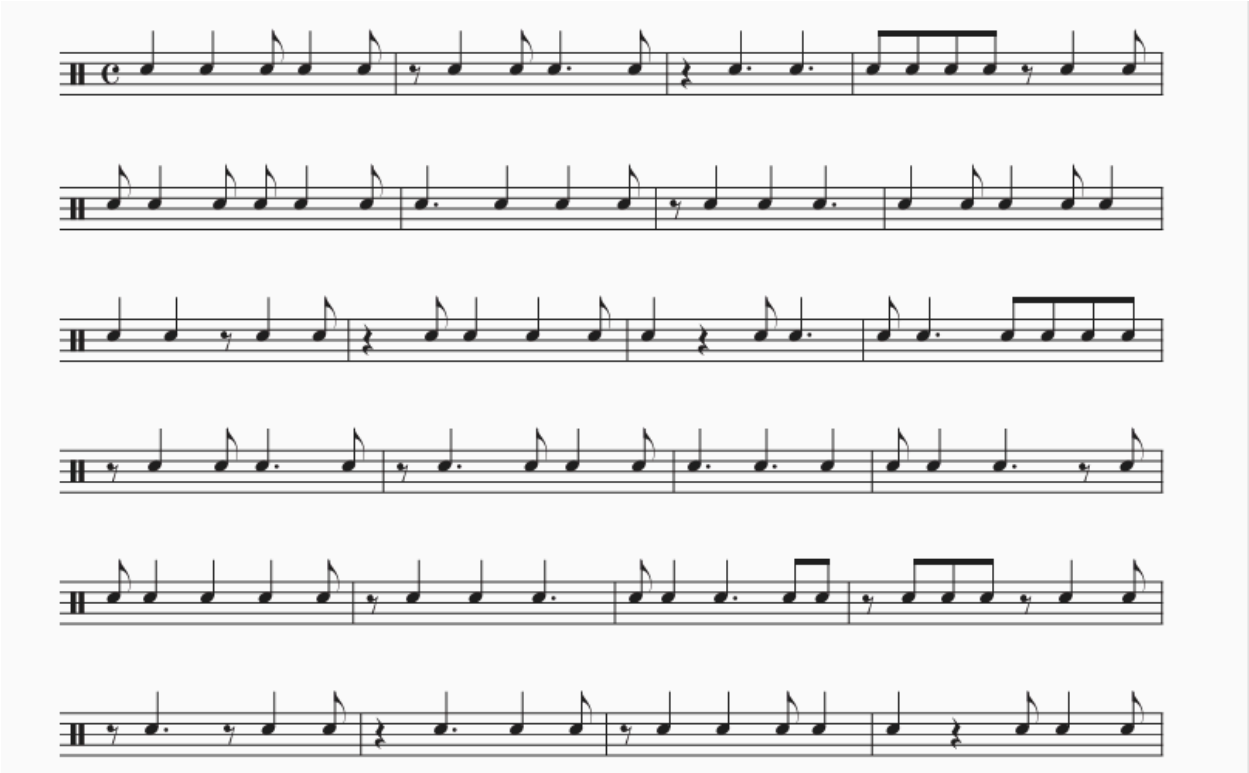
Reading syncopated Rhythms



Syncopation A



Syncopation B



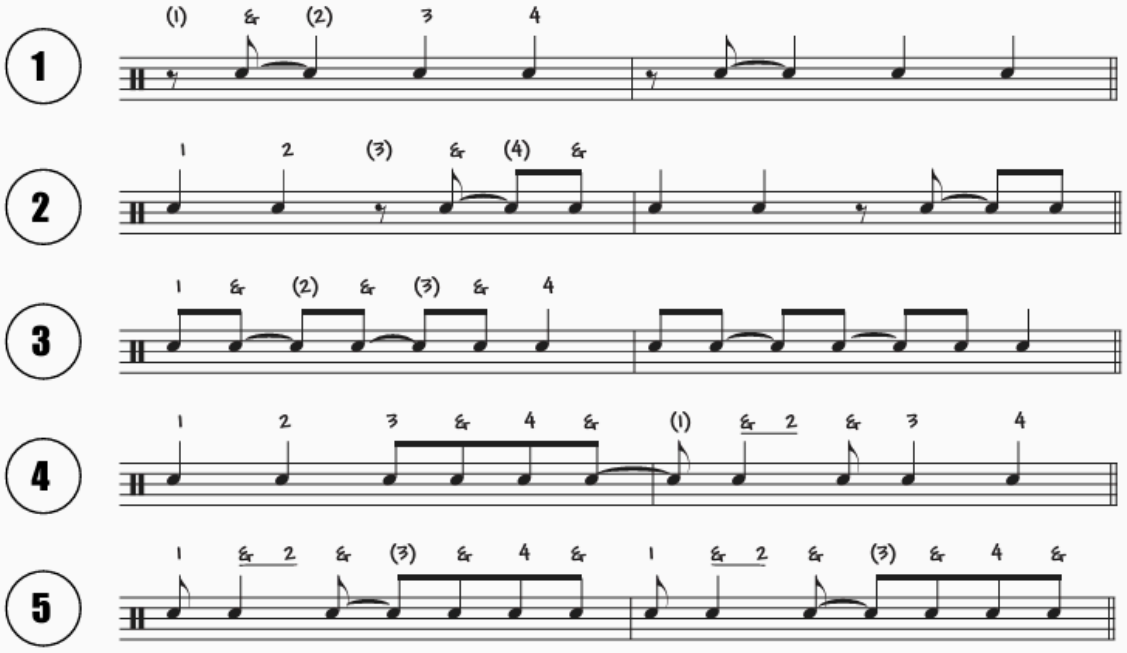
Syncopation with Ties

Syncopation Using Ties

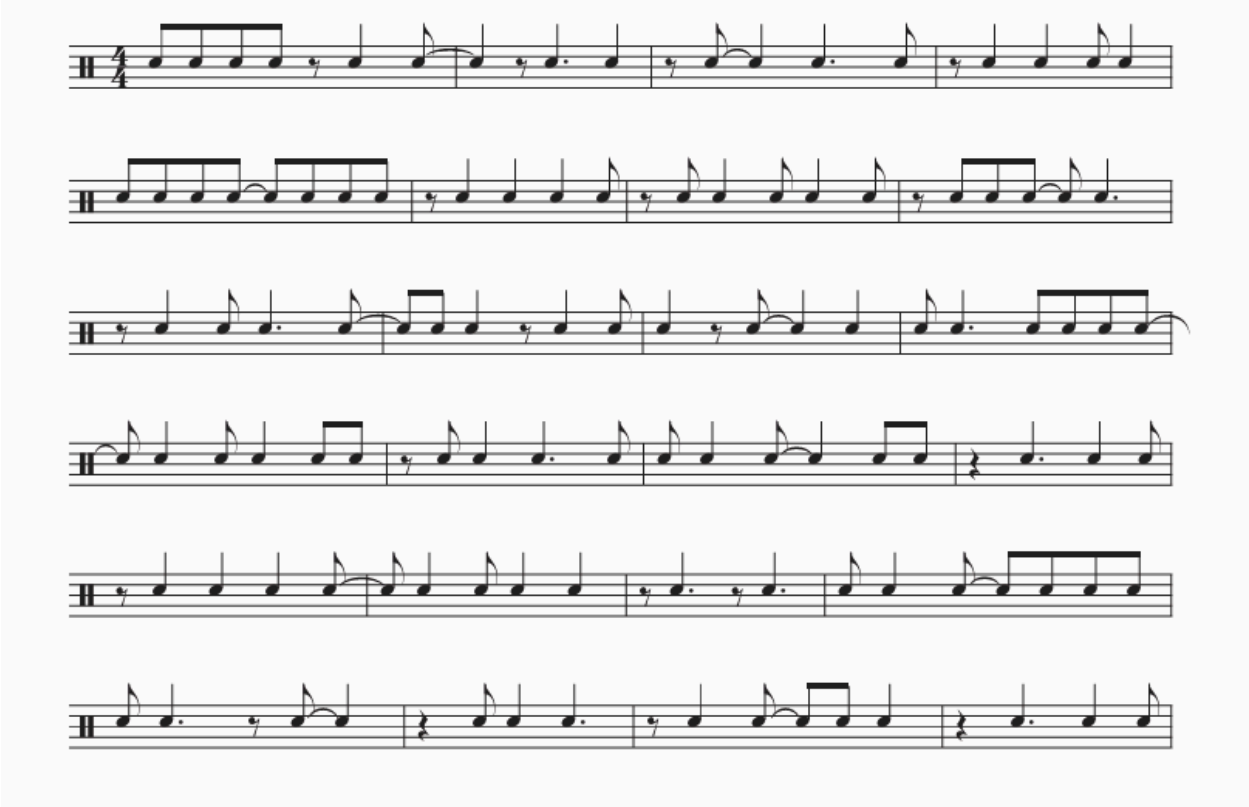
A tie makes a note longer by connecting it to another.

In a tied rhythm, the first note is played, but the second is not. The value, however, remains the same.

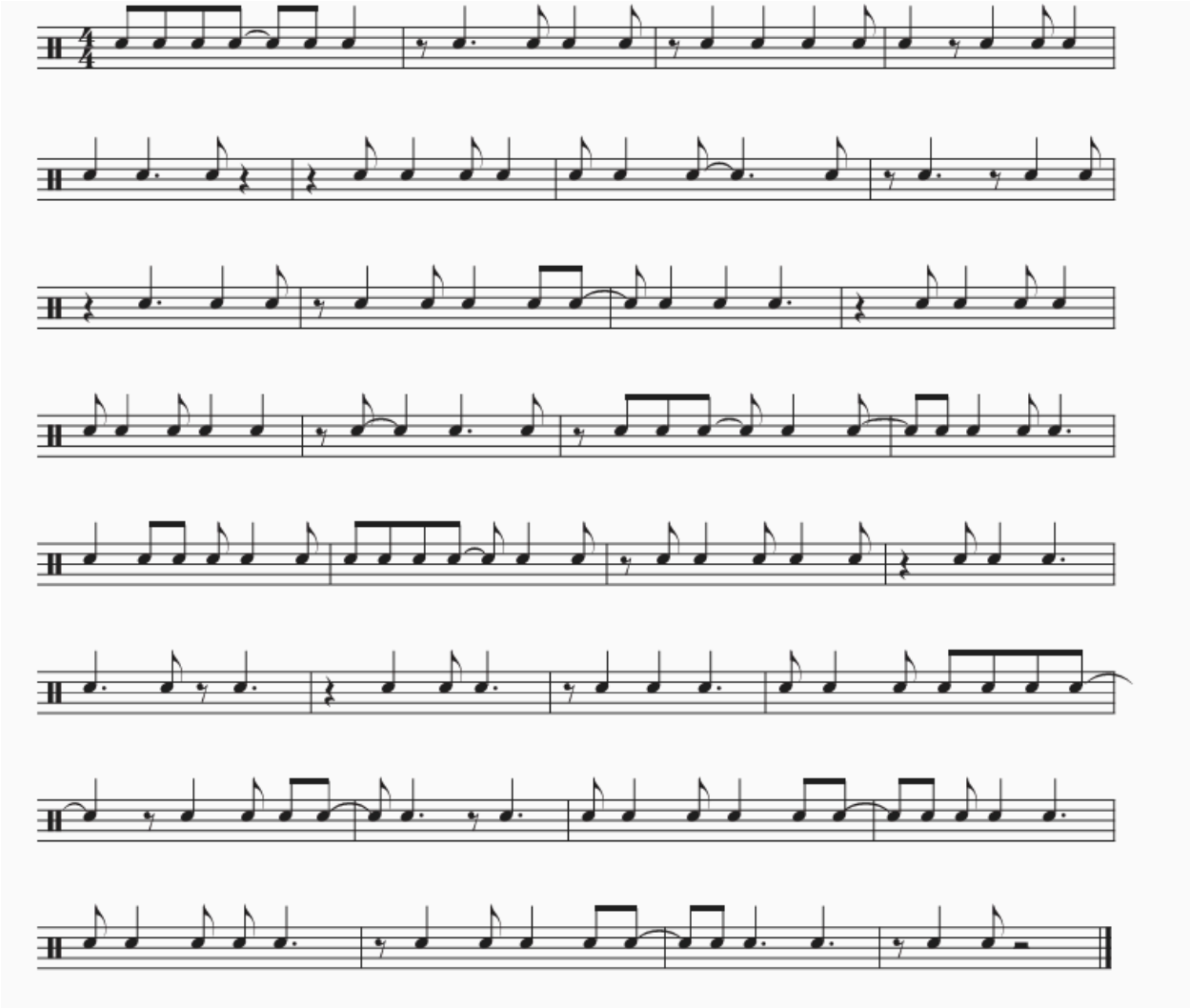
Here are five common examples of tie placements:



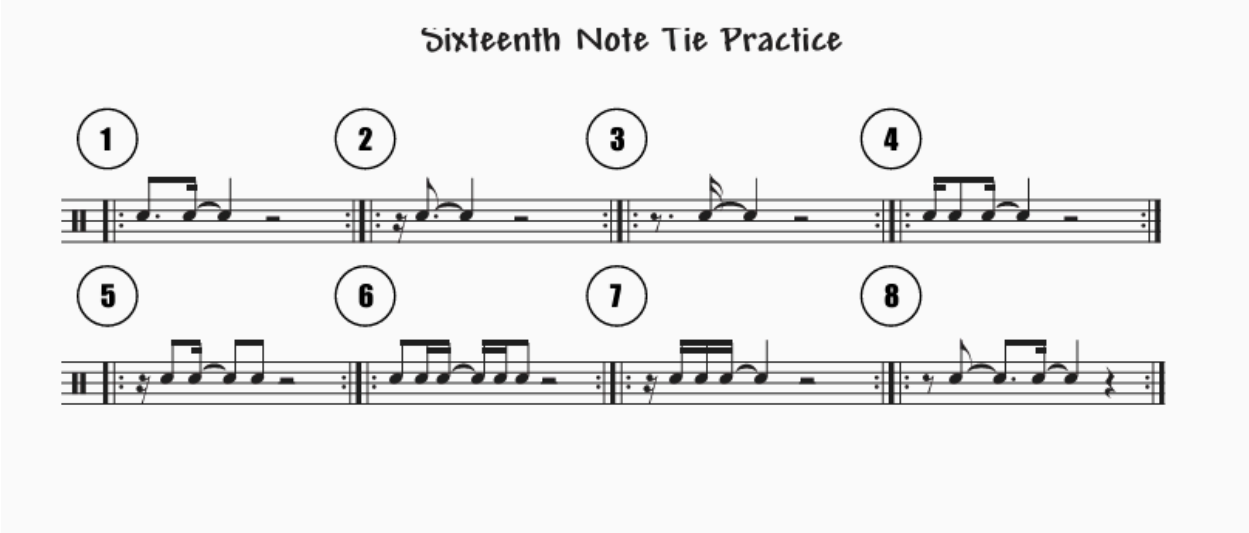
Reading Syncopation with Ties



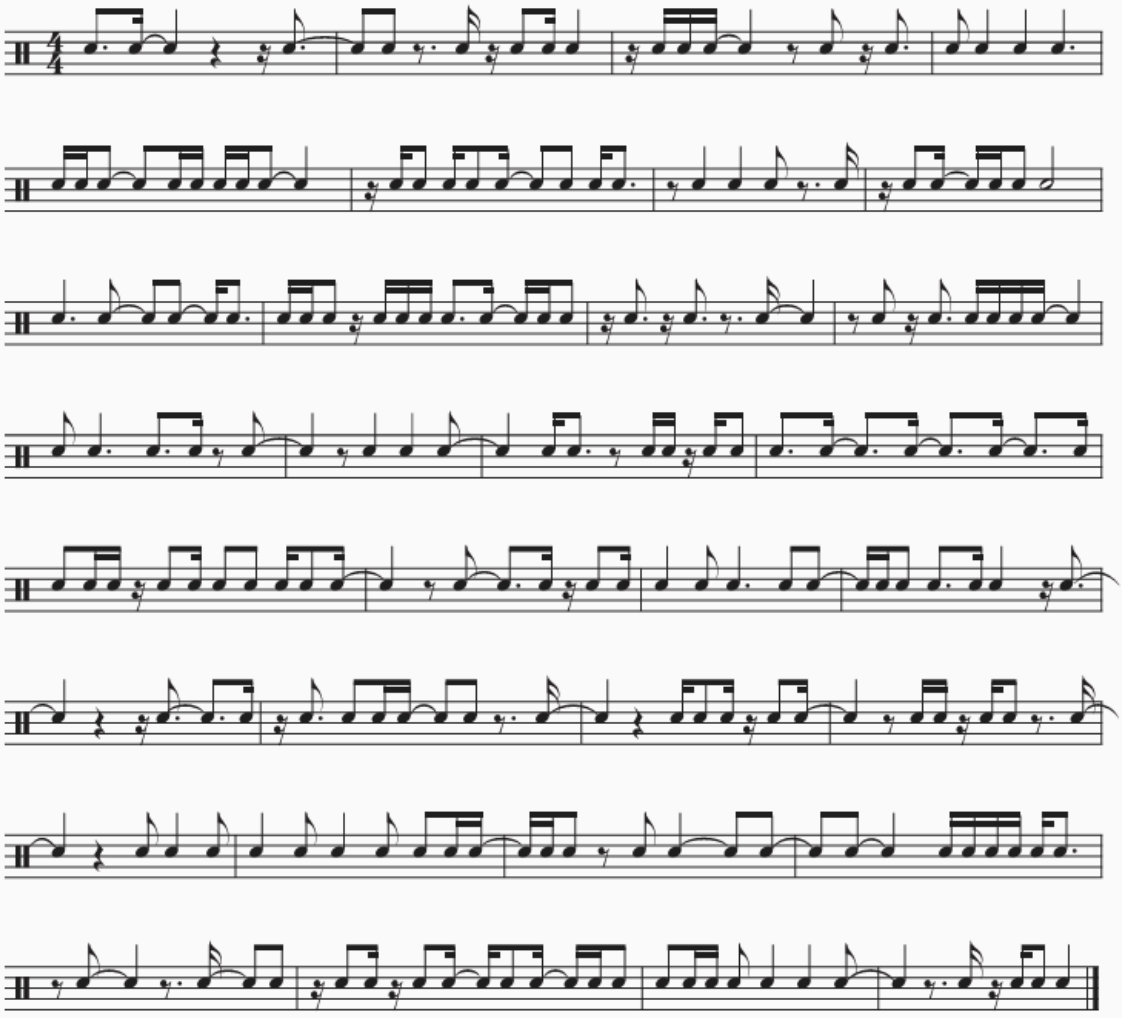
Syncopation Final



16th Notes using Ties- Now let's begin to apply ties to 16th note rhythmic figures. The concept is the same, playing the first note, and not playing the next note that is tied. Sixteenth Note Tie Practice Here are some examples



Using Ties With Mixed Rhythms

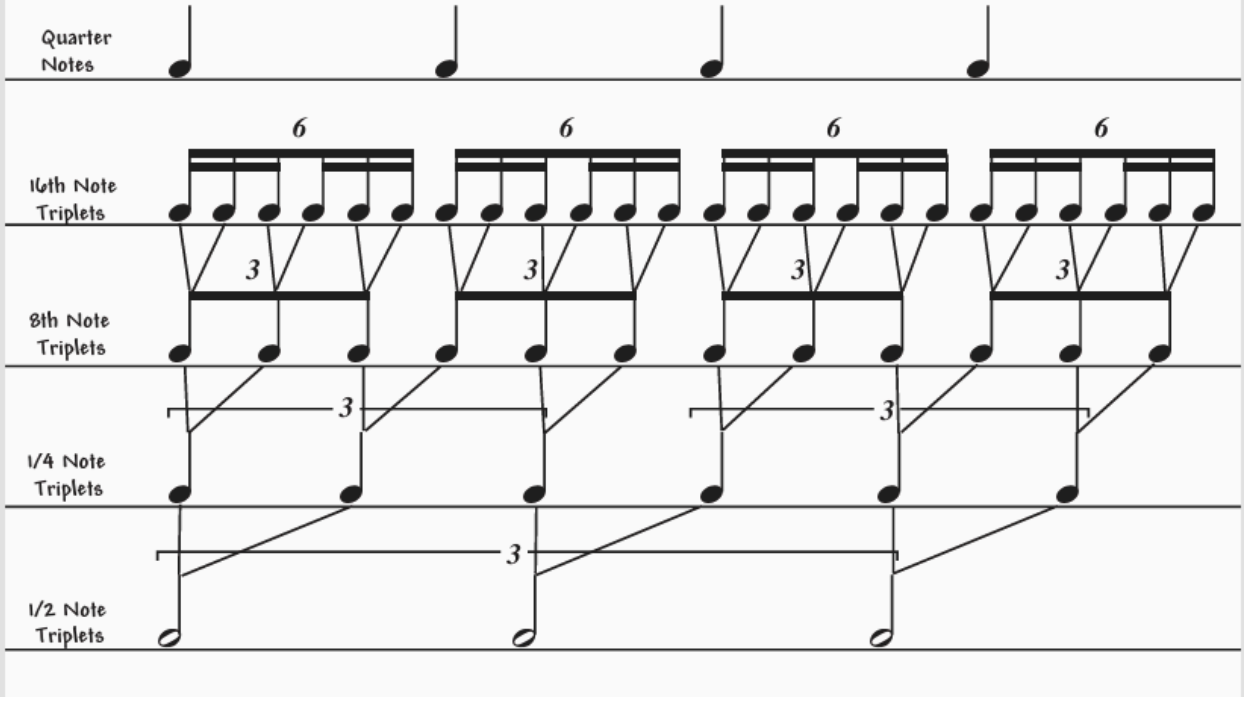


TRIPLETS

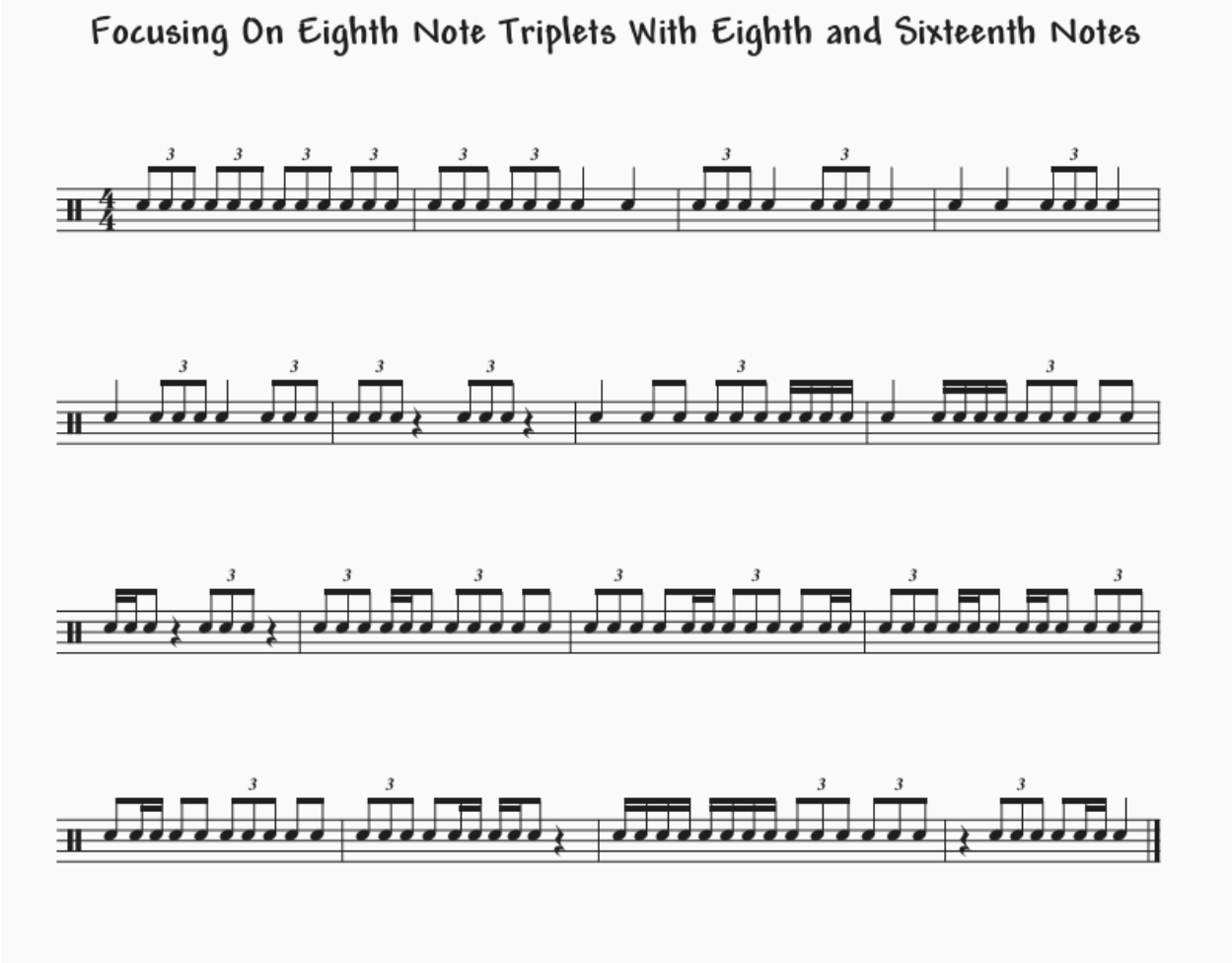
Introducing Triplets

Unlike the "Essential Rhythm Tree Of Subdivisions" which uses a "build up" approach to subdividing largest to smallest, the "Triplet Rhythm Tree" is presented in a "break down" approach from smallest to largest. It is easier to identify the triplets that are to follow by hearing how they fit into the previous triplet.

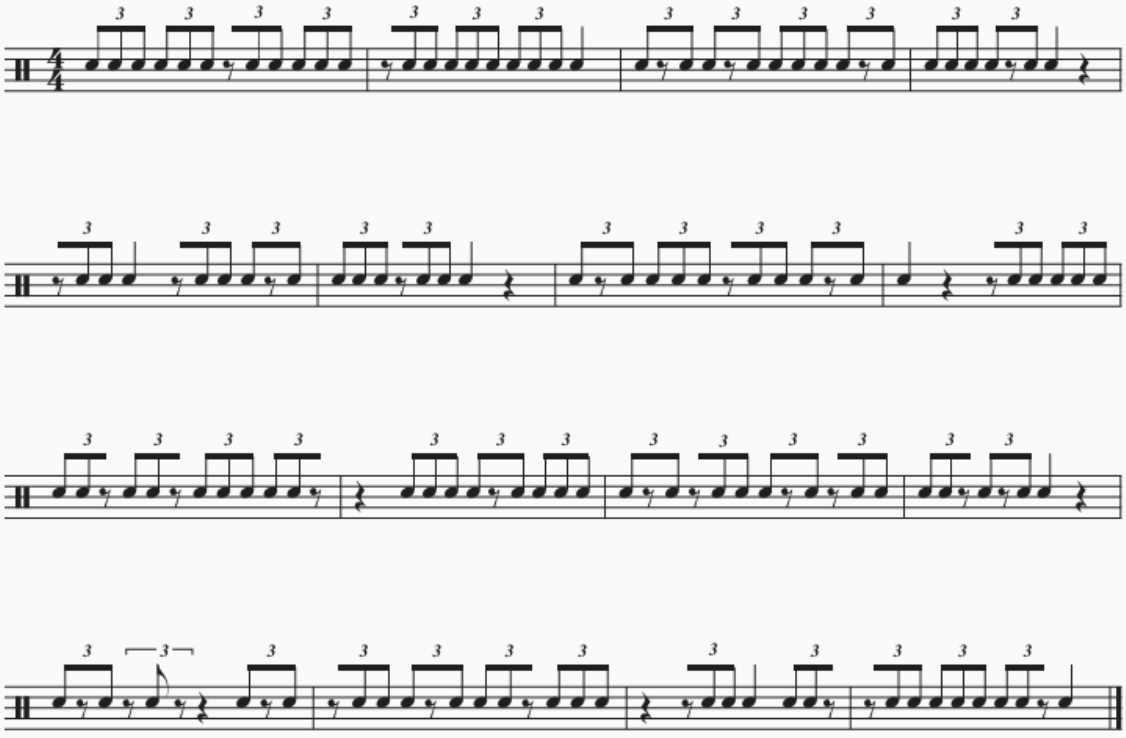
The Triplet Rhythm Tree



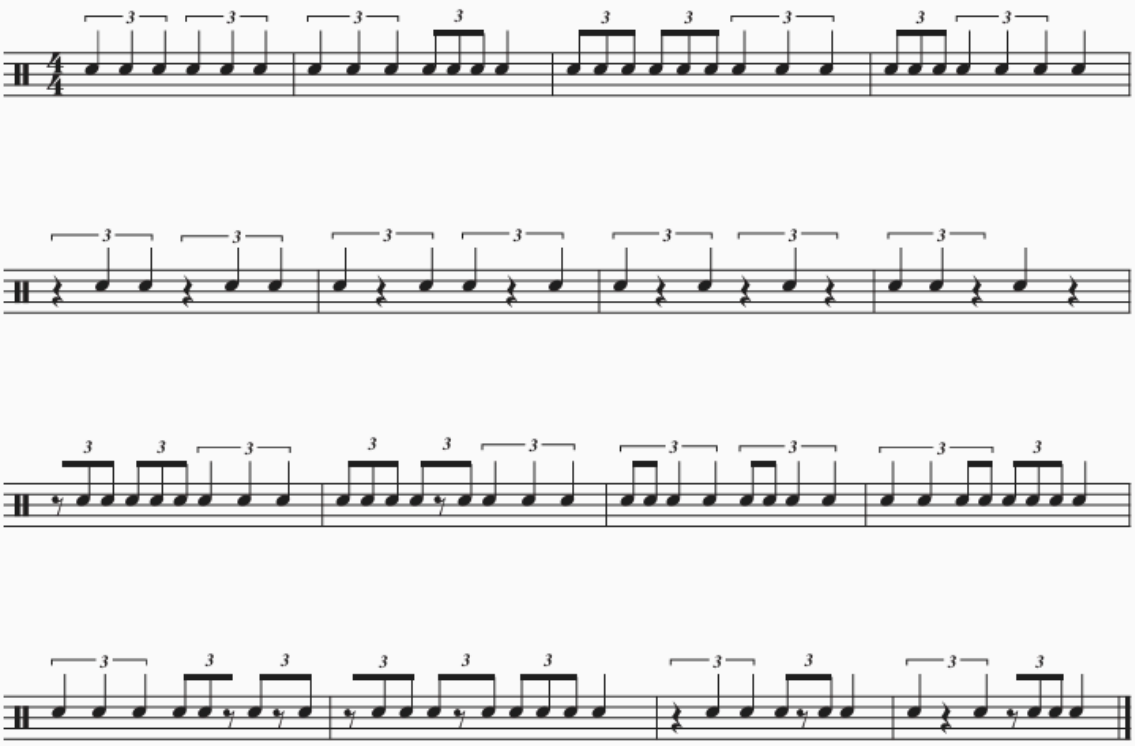
Triplets Practice



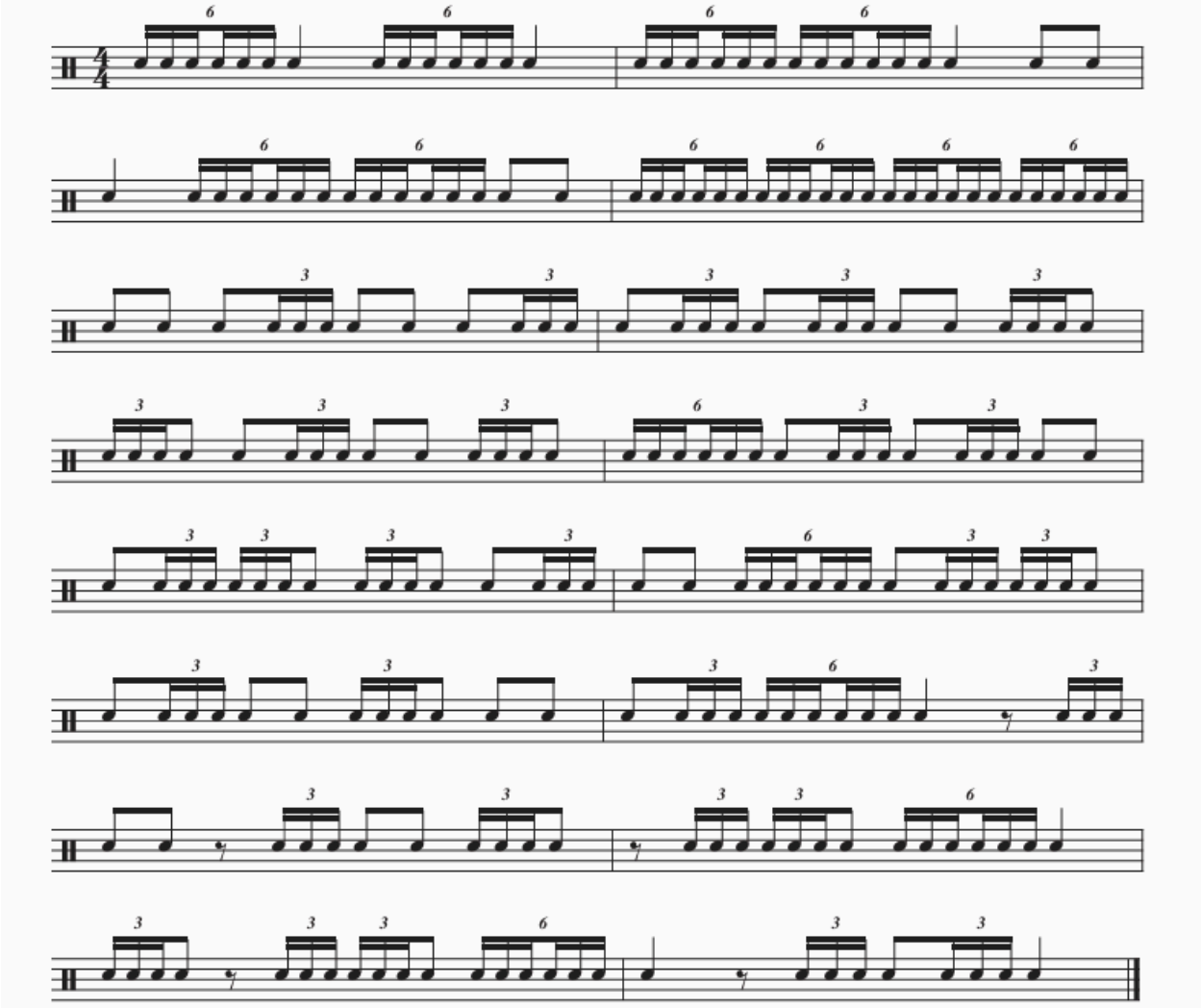
Using Eighth Note Triplets With Eighth Rests

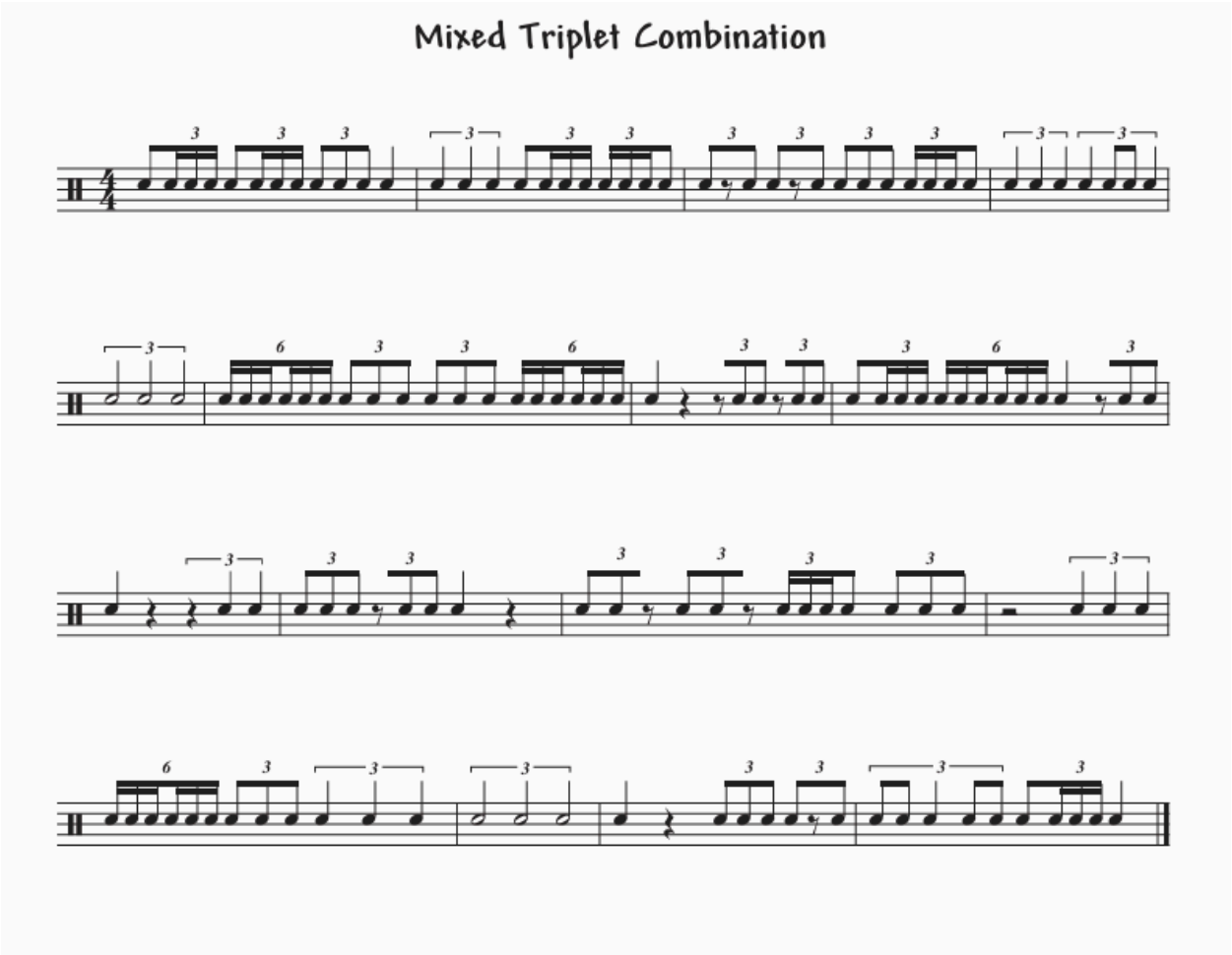


Combining Quarter Note Triplets With Eighth Note Triplets



Sixteenth Note Triplets





BPM Mark= How Fast is the Count ?

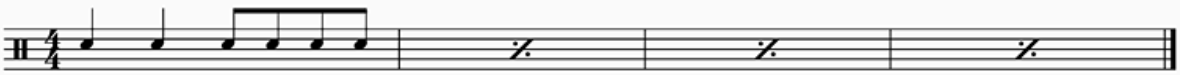
What is a BPM? The tempo, or the speed of the song is shown in BPMs or “Beats Per Minute" The tempo, or the speed of the song is shown in BPMs or “beats per minute”.
This is how the tempo of the piece is determined. As we know, there are 60 seconds in one minute, so a tempo of 60 BPM is equivalent to: One Beat Per Second.

Most pieces of music will show the BPM at the beginning of the piece of music.
If the piece is in a quarter note pulse, the BPM will look like this:

Measure Repeat Signs

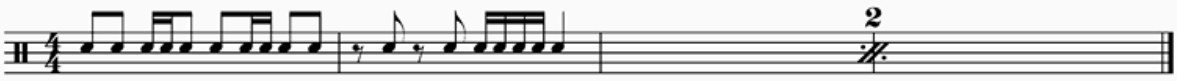
Single Measure Repeats

The repeat symbol in the measure tells you to repeat the last written measure.



Double Measure Repeats

The number 2 above the multiple measure repeat sign tells you
to repeat the previous two measures.



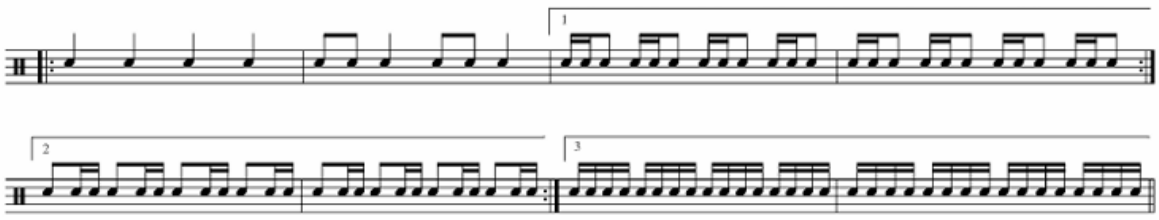
Endings are used to change the end of a phrase on a repeated section.

In this next example there are three endings, each with a different rhythm.

There are three endings, each with a different rhythm.

1. Play bars 1-4, then repeat back to bar 1.
2. Play bars 1-2, skip the first ending and go to the 2nd ending.
3. Play bars 1-2, then skip 2nd ending and play 3rd ending then stop on count 1.

.



Drum Chart
Song Form Notation

The following pages contain two of the most commonly used methods of notating song form within a chart.

These are commonly called **“Road Maps”. D.C. al Fine Road Map “D.C”**. is short for “Da Capo” or “back to the top”**.**
The **“al Fine”** means “to the end”**.**

So, **“D.C. al Fine”** means back to the top, and play to the end.

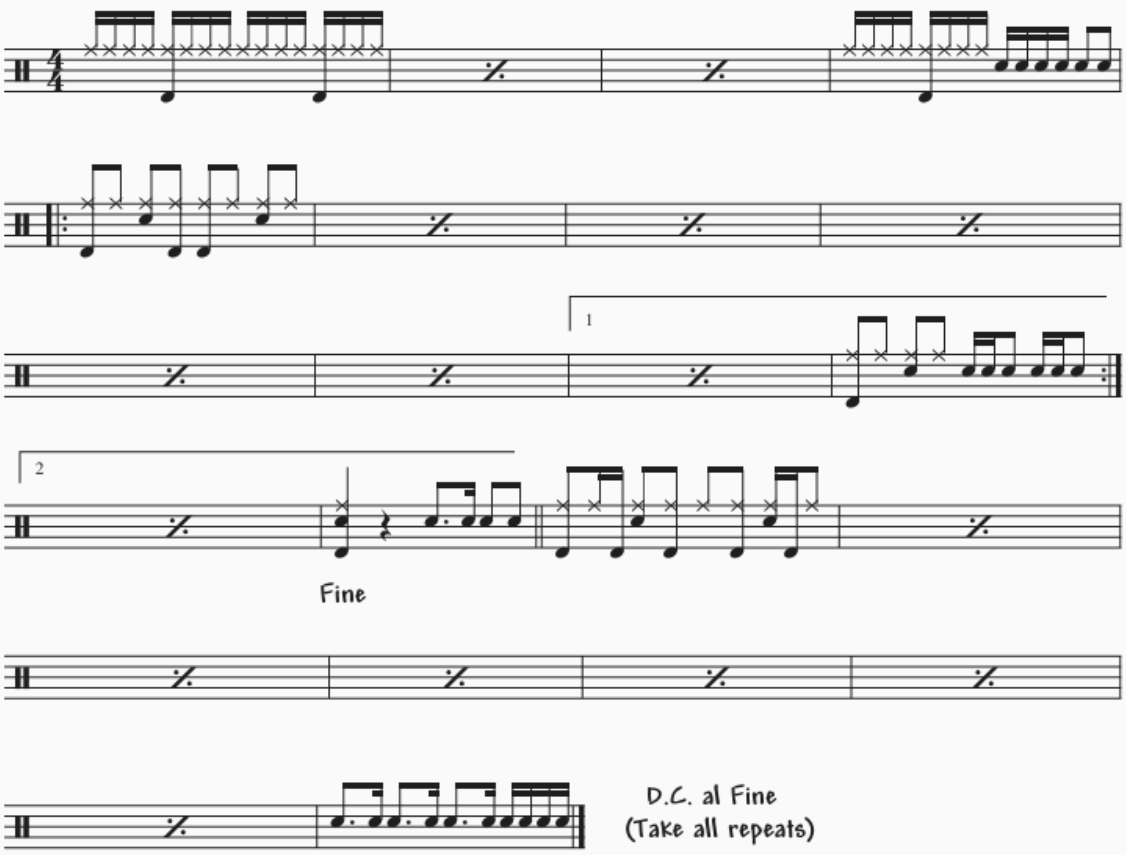
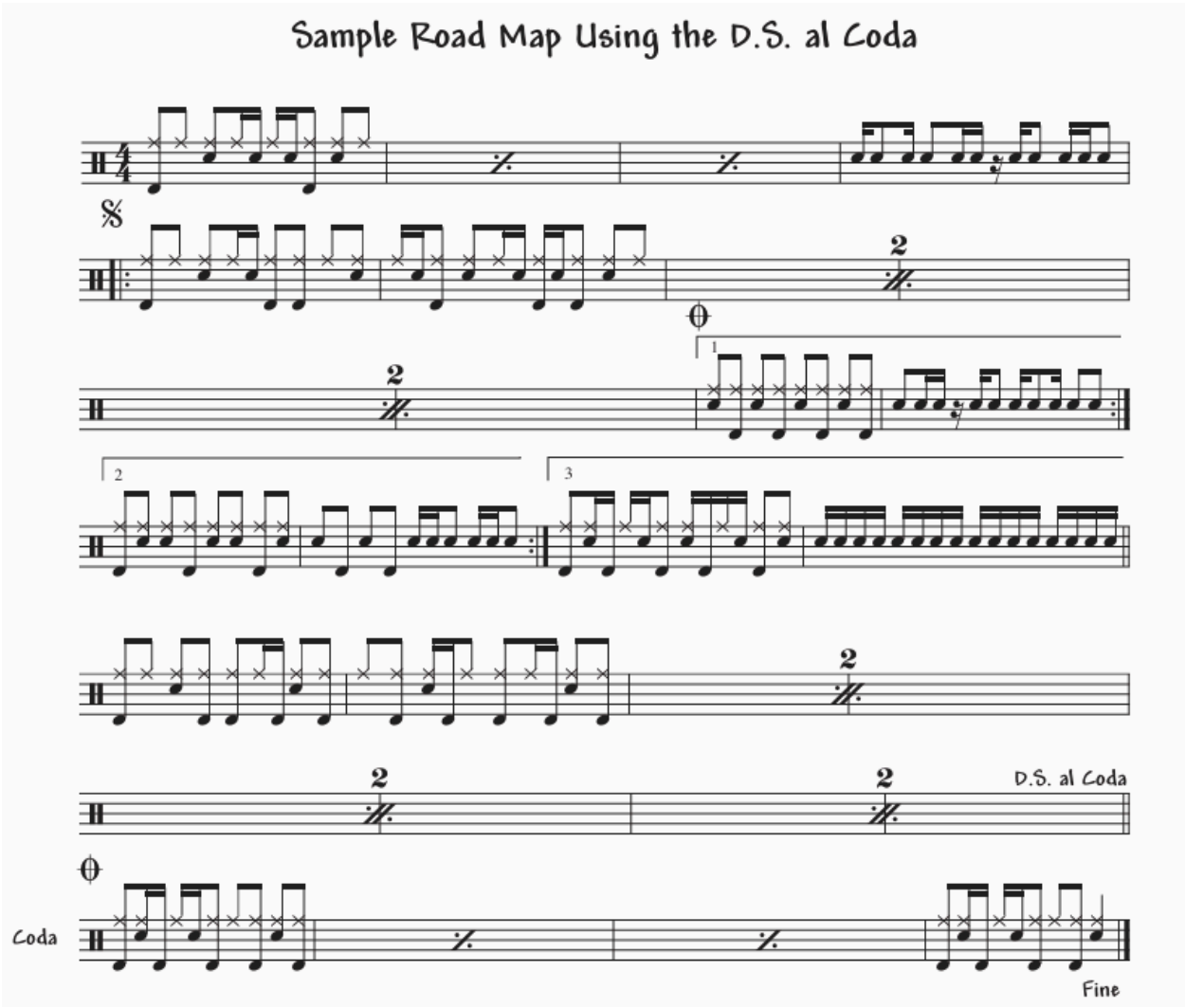
D.S. al Coda Road Map “D.S.” is short for “Del Segno”, which means

“go to the spot of the sign”.

A Coda is a “tag”, or additional ending section marked by this symbol: At the coda sign, immediately skip to the coda section, usually found at the end of the piece.

So, “D.S. al coda” means go to the spot of the sign, then jump to the section where marked

Sample Road Map Using the D.C. al Fine



Sample Road Map Using the D.S. al Coda