

Building the Tequila beat

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Cymbal rhythm:

Musical notation for cymbal rhythm. The top line shows a 4/4 time signature with a bell of cym note on beat 1. Below it, a staff shows a continuous pattern of 'x' marks and vertical strokes. Above the staff, a stick figure is shown with a '4' above the head and a '1' below the feet, indicating a four-beat cycle.

bell of cym

1 2 3 4 & & 2 & 3 4

Add backbeat on the snare drum:

Musical notation showing the addition of a backbeat on the snare drum. The top line shows the original cymbal rhythm. Below it, a staff shows a continuous pattern of 'x' marks and vertical strokes, with a small 's' added under each vertical stroke to indicate a backbeat on the snare drum.

bell of cym

1 2 3 4 & & 2 & 3 4

snare

Add bass drum— add on beats 1 and 3 on all other patterns:

Musical notation showing the addition of a bass drum on beats 1 and 3. The top line shows the original cymbal rhythm. Below it, a staff shows a continuous pattern of 'x' marks and vertical strokes, with a small 'b' added under each vertical stroke on beats 1 and 3 to indicate a bass drum hit.

bell of cym

1 2 3 4 & 1 & 2 & 3 4

snare

bass

Easier cymbal part:

Musical notation for an easier cymbal part. The top line shows the original cymbal rhythm. Below it, a staff shows a simplified pattern of 'x' marks and vertical strokes, with 'L' and 'R' labels under specific vertical strokes to indicate left and right hand cymbal strikes.

L R R L R R

With easy cymbal part, add bass drum on cym notes with no snare drum:

Musical notation for an easier cymbal part with a bass drum. The top line shows the original cymbal rhythm. Below it, a staff shows a simplified pattern of 'x' marks and vertical strokes, with a small 'b' added under each vertical stroke on cymbal notes where there is no corresponding vertical stroke on the snare line.

With tom tom move:

Musical notation for a tom tom move. The top line shows the original cymbal rhythm. Below it, a staff shows a simplified pattern of 'x' marks and vertical strokes, with a small 't' added under each vertical stroke on cymbal notes where there is no corresponding vertical stroke on the snare line, indicating a tom tom hit.

bell of cym

1 2 3 4 & & 2 & 3 4 &

high tom

snare

Easier cymbal rhythm:

Musical notation for an easier cymbal rhythm. The top line shows the original cymbal rhythm. Below it, a staff shows a simplified pattern of 'x' marks and vertical strokes, with a small 't' added under each vertical stroke on cymbal notes where there is no corresponding vertical stroke on the snare line, indicating a tom tom hit.

Also learn this basic version:

Musical notation for a basic cymbal rhythm. The top line shows the original cymbal rhythm. Below it, a staff shows a simplified pattern of 'x' marks and vertical strokes, with a small 't' added under each vertical stroke on cymbal notes where there is no corresponding vertical stroke on the snare line, indicating a tom tom hit.

And this one:

Musical notation for another basic cymbal rhythm. The top line shows the original cymbal rhythm. Below it, a staff shows a simplified pattern of 'x' marks and vertical strokes, with a small 't' added under each vertical stroke on cymbal notes where there is no corresponding vertical stroke on the snare line, indicating a tom tom hit.