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## DRUM NOTATION KEY

The diagram shows a five-line musical staff with five symbols and their corresponding labels above them:

- Hi-Hat or Ride Cymbal:** A vertical line with an 'x' at the top, positioned on the first space (F4).
- Ghost Note:** A quarter note with a stem, positioned on the second line (G4).
- Snare Drum:** A quarter note with a stem, positioned on the third line (B4).
- Bass Drum:** A quarter note with a stem, positioned on the fourth line (D5).
- Hi-Hat Foot:** A vertical line with an 'x' at the bottom, positioned on the fourth space (F5).

## DEDICATION

I'd like to dedicate this book to two world-renowned drummers of modern times, Dom Famularo and Joe Bergamini. Thank you for your decades of friendship, guidance and inspiration, and for believing in this project and making it come to life. - Sam

# NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Time and groove are two of the most important elements for any professional drummer.

Over the many years of my career, I've spent an endless amount of hours working and developing my groove. Whether it was working on funk, rock, Latin, paradiddle, layered, or linear grooves, I felt that something was missing.

It wasn't my right hand or my bass drum, so I decided to focus on my left hand and tried to dissect what it was playing. My backbeats were strong, my ghost strokes were good, and my dynamics were good. It was very frustrating that it sounded great but I still felt that there was something missing.

I decided to play one-measure funk grooves and really focused on only changing what my left hand was playing to make the groove feel and sound different. I was intrigued with how the groove sounded different by adding in even just one left-hand 16th note and not changing my right hand or bass drum pattern. I kept experimenting with this concept for many years until one day it came to me. I changed the thought process on how I viewed my left hand. My left hand became a **lead hand** (snare drum only), not just a backbeat hand.

This new approach, for me, is what was missing. My grooves started feeling more alive. I kept exploring and experimenting with this concept for many more years, working on new exercises and different left-hand patterns, but always maintaining the basic fundamentals to a great groove: dynamics, time, ghost strokes, accents, etc.

*Advanced Groove Concepts* presents this approach for you to discover the untapped potential in your grooves and your weaker hand. Enjoy!

- Sam Aliano

*Note: Throughout this book, I mention left and right hands to discuss weaker and stronger hands, respectively. Left-handed players should reverse the stickings.*



# R-Hand Quarter Notes

## VARIATION 1



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

## FOOT PATTERNS

1. 2.

# 2-Measure Summary Grooves

Play Accents on 2 and 4



1.

2.

3.

4.



5.

## FOOT PATTERNS

1.

2.

# R-Hand 8th Notes

## VARIATION 2

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

## FOOT PATTERNS

1.

2.

# 2-Measure Summary Grooves

Play Accents on 2 and 4

1.

Musical notation for groove 1, 4/4 time signature. The staff shows a sequence of notes with accents on the 2nd and 4th beats of each measure. Above the staff, there are four groups of four 'x' marks, each with a bracket underneath, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern.



2.

Musical notation for groove 2, 4/4 time signature. The staff shows a sequence of notes with accents on the 2nd and 4th beats of each measure. Above the staff, there are four groups of four 'x' marks, each with a bracket underneath, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern.

3.

Musical notation for groove 3, 4/4 time signature. The staff shows a sequence of notes with accents on the 2nd and 4th beats of each measure. Above the staff, there are four groups of four 'x' marks, each with a bracket underneath, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern.



4.

Musical notation for groove 4, 4/4 time signature. The staff shows a sequence of notes with accents on the 2nd and 4th beats of each measure. Above the staff, there are four groups of four 'x' marks, each with a bracket underneath, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern.

5.

Musical notation for groove 5, 4/4 time signature. The staff shows a sequence of notes with accents on the 2nd and 4th beats of each measure. Above the staff, there are four groups of four 'x' marks, each with a bracket underneath, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern.

## FOOT PATTERNS

1.

Musical notation for foot pattern 1, 4/4 time signature. The staff shows a sequence of four quarter notes.

2.

Musical notation for foot pattern 2, 4/4 time signature. The staff shows a sequence of four eighth notes, each with an 'x' above it, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern.