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About this book

Most of our students will tell you that drums are a hard instrument to learn. As drummers we have to be able to move all four limbs independently while still being able to focus and think musically. It is sometimes hard to know where to begin when you are first starting out...and that's where this book comes in!

Find Your Beat! is a book written for complete beginners who want to pick up the sticks for the first time and focus on learning to play something quickly without having to worry about reading music or learning music theory. All the first exercises are written out in colourful words and are laid out in a strategic way which will benefit younger drummers and adults who find reading music daunting. As you progress through the book, you can move on to some simple reading exercises if you feel ready but if not, that's fine too!

There's a video example played at 60 BPM to help you with every exercise...and that's not all! Once you're comfortable with the exercises there are two slow tempo play-along songs for you to try out your new skills. Both tracks have a full mix, a drum-less mix with a click and a drum-less mix without a click.

From learning a basic groove and perfecting drum fills to ultimately reading drum music, this book covers all a beginner needs to know.

About the author

Tom O. Mitchell has been playing drums since he was a teenager in 1998 and studied Popular Music at West Kent College before going on to tutor a handful of private students under the name of T.O.M Drum Tuition. He started his professional teaching career with Kent Music School in 2003, tutoring pupils across the county during school hours and went on to lecture on the Popular Music course at West Kent College.

In the meantime, Tom built up a large number of private students and in 2004 he decided it was time to step up the content of the lessons by writing a unique syllabus and coming up with a name for it - DrumWise has been going strong ever since.

Students now travel from across the South East for lessons in the purpose-built DrumWise studio in Maidstone and a team of teachers are now placed in schools around Kent to deliver drum lessons to a wide range of ages and abilities.

As a performer, Tom has worked and toured with many artists and currently plays for touring theatre tribute band Purple Zeppelin alongside recording drum tracks for artists in his studio.

The Four Move Groove

The 'Four Move Groove' is an exercise based on a standard drum groove that has been used in thousands of songs. Repeat all exercises in a continuous loop until you feel comfortable.

Exercise 1

1 **2** **3** **4**
Hat **Hat** **Hat** **Hat**



	Snare		Snare
Kick		Kick	

Tip

A 'bar' is a measure of music which can be made up of a different number of beats. In most popular music there are normally four beats in a bar which means we count up to four. In this book it is represented by a box around the exercise.

The Four And Four Move Groove

The 'Four And Four Move Groove' takes the 'Four Move Groove' and adds four more Hi Hats. We count this as "one AND two AND...."

Exercise 2

1 **+** **2** **+** **3** **+** **4** **+**
Hat **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat**



		Snare				Snare	
Kick				Kick			

Varying The Four And Four Move Groove

Now let's add more things to our groove, starting with an extra Kick at the same time as the Snare. This is known as a 'Four On The Floor' or 'Four To The Floor' groove and is used in a lot of pop and rock songs.

Exercise 3

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
Hat	Hat	Hat	Hat	Hat	Hat	Hat	Hat
		Snare				Snare	
Kick		Kick		Kick		Kick	

Double Kicks

To add even more variation, we can change the Kick pattern to give the groove a different feel. Now, instead of playing four single Kicks, we will play two groups of two Kicks.

Exercise 4

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
Hat	Hat	Hat	Hat	Hat	Hat	Hat	Hat
		Snare				Snare	
Kick	Kick			Kick	Kick		

Exercise 5 combines the single Kick and double Kick grooves from the previous two exercises.

Exercise 5

1 **+** **2** **+** **3** **+** **4** **+**
Hat **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat**

		Snare				Snare	
Kick				Kick	Kick		

Moving Kicks

Moving the position of the double Kick can completely change the sound of the groove. In this exercise the double Kick starts earlier, on the + of beat two.

Exercise 6

1 **+** **2** **+** **3** **+** **4** **+**
Hat **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat** **Hat**

		Snare				Snare	
Kick				Kick	Kick		

Adding More Kicks

Now add another Kick at the end of the groove in Exercise 7 which will join up to the start of the groove when you repeat it.

