

Hi! My name is Janet. Welcome to my book,
First 100+ Rock Beats for Drumset.
You can call me Jammin' Janet like everyone
else does. I got that nickname because
I'm always jamming out on my drums -
my all-time favorite thing to do!



This is my pet and #1 BFF, Viva.
That's short for Vivace or Vivacissimo,
which are fancy music words that mean
lively and fast. Don't let her being a
snail fool you; she gets going pretty
quickly when she wants to.

She will, however, be the
first to tell you that the
key to drumming super
fast is actually practicing
super slowly. She reminds me
all the time . . . and she's right.

More on that later.

For now, I want to get
you started rocking out ASAP!
Grab your favorite drumsticks,
get to your drumset and let's get to it.

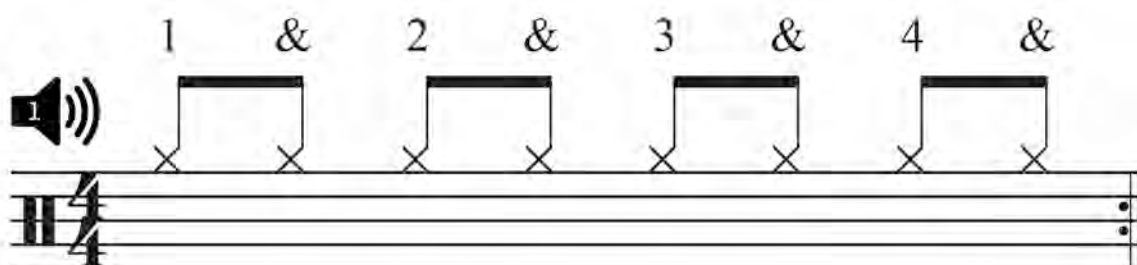
This part of the set is called the hi-hat and has two hi-hat cymbals that can be opened and closed using the hi-hat stand that they're mounted on.

For now, keep the hi-hat closed, which will probably mean keeping your left foot held down on the pedal to hold the cymbals tight together.



Next we're going to do some counting.
Nice and loud, count: "1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &"

Then hit the closed hi-hat with your
right drumstick with every count.



You just played what are called 8th notes. They get that name because, in a regular measure (or bar) of music, 8 of them fit inside. Look up above there again.

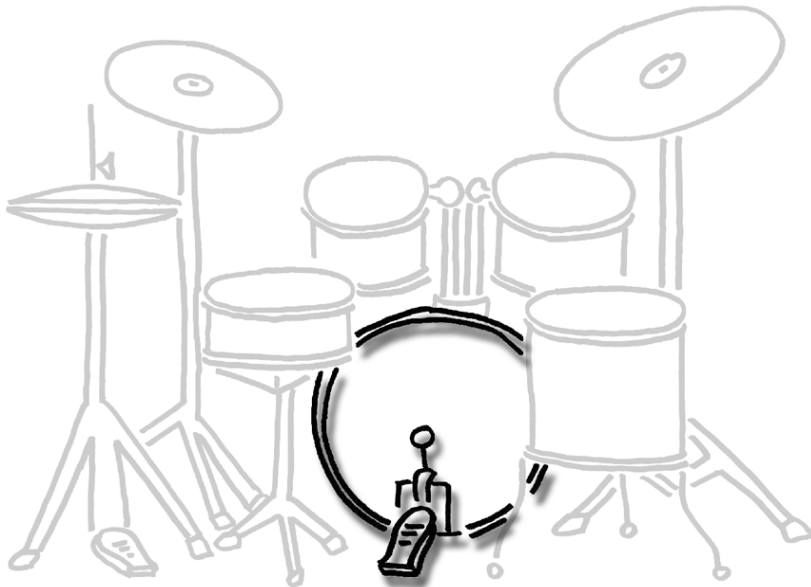
See? You played 8 of them!

Play that measure again but, this time, don't stop at the end of it. The two dots and two lines at the end are called a repeat sign, telling us to go back and do the measure again. No taking a break at the end . . . zip back to the beginning and keep your counting and playing going another time through.

Or maybe a whole bunch of times through!

Got that? Good.

The big drum on the floor (with another pedal connected to it) is the bass drum. It's usually the largest piece of the drumset and usually has the lowest pitch.



Put your right foot on the bass drum pedal and, moving from your ankle, give it a few solid thumps. Pretty cool, right?

Now let's add a couple bass drum notes in with the 8th notes we were playing on the hi-hat. Count this one (out loud) and play the hi-hat the same way but, when you say 1 and 3, hit both the hi-hat and the bass drum at exactly the same time.

Viva just leaned in and said to tell you that, if the two don't line up perfectly together, just slow the whole exercise down. Once you get it down at a slow speed (or tempo), you can then gradually speed it up to faster tempos.

1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &

2

4/4

Repeat this over and over until it's comfortable.

One more drum to learn about for now: the snare drum.

Sitting right in front of you, the snare has metal strands (called snare wires) underneath that push against the bottom drumhead and give the drum a snappy, metallic sound.



Time to add it to our exercise. Here the hi-hat and bass drum stay the same as before but, every time you count 2 and 4, hit both the hi-hat and snare drum at the same time. Start slowly and make sure each limb plays exactly when it's supposed to.

A musical notation for a drum exercise. It features a single staff with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. Above the staff, the counts "1 & 2 & 3 & 4 &" are written. The notation shows a bass drum (represented by a solid black dot) on the first and third beats, and a hi-hat (represented by an 'x') on every beat. On the second and fourth beats, there are two 'x' marks, one above the bass drum and one above the hi-hat, indicating that both are played simultaneously. A speaker icon with the number 3 is located to the left of the first measure. The staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.