

Drum Notation Legend

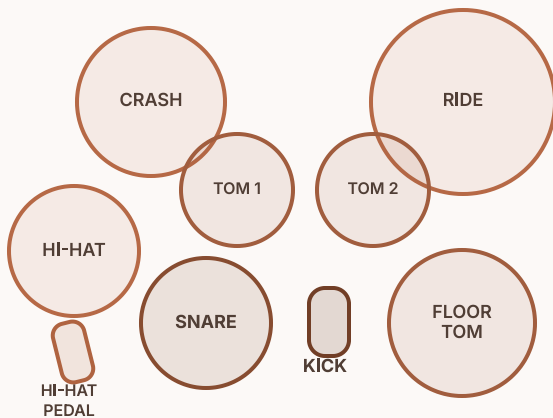
A quick reference guide — Ogden Drum Studio

01 READING THE STAFF

Drum notation uses a 5-line staff just like other instruments — but instead of showing pitch, each position on the staff tells you which drum or cymbal to play.

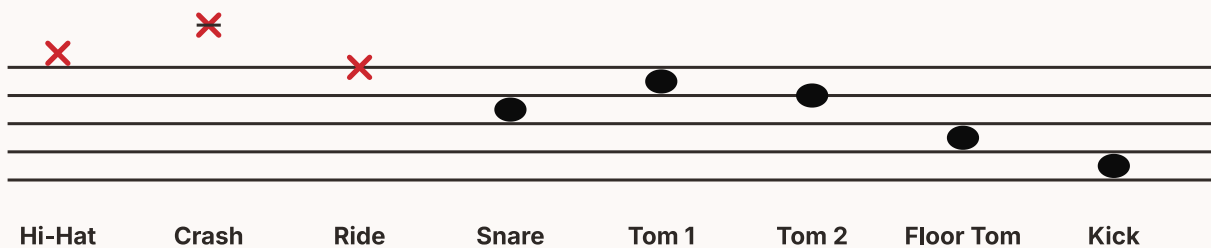
02 YOUR KIT, MAPPED

KIT DIAGRAM — TOP-DOWN VIEW



Each drum or cymbal has a fixed position on the staff. Once you learn the layout below, you can read any groove at a glance.

CYMBAL VOICES USE AN X NOTEHEAD; DRUM VOICES USE A ROUND NOTEHEAD — SEE SYMBOL KEY BELOW.



03 SYMBOL KEY



Round notehead = drum
(snare, toms, kick)



X-shaped notehead =
cymbal or hi-hat



Open circle above an X =
open hi-hat



+ above an X = closed
hi-hat

QUICK RHYTHM REFERENCE



Quarter



Eighth



Sixteenth

DYNAMICS



Accent



Ghost note