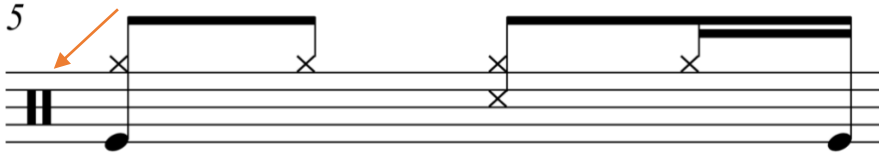
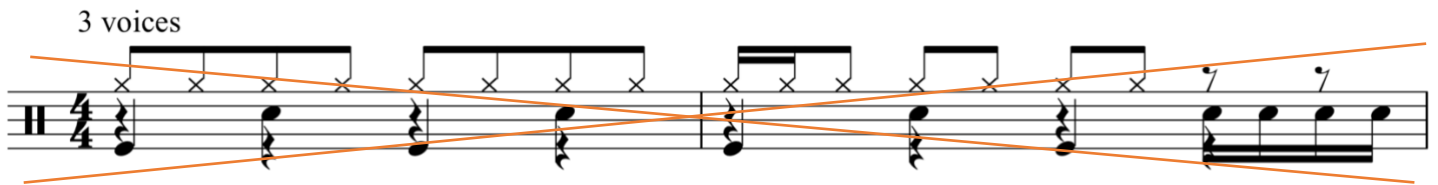


How to write for drums – 10 Tips

1. Unpitched drums are written in their own key.



2. Never write more than two (2) voices

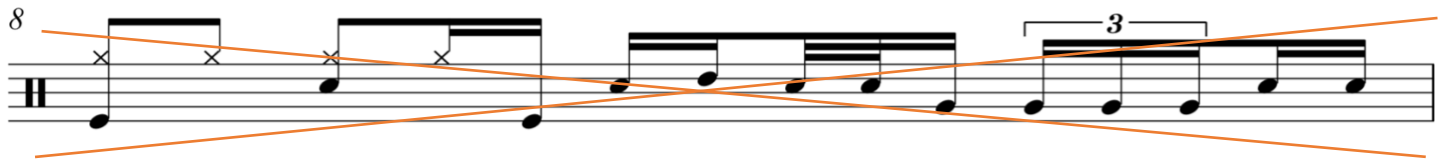


3. Cymbals are X. X on the snare drum means rimclick. Rimclick is the softer click sound drummers often use to imitate a Clave, in Latin music or Bossa Nova. Not to be mistaken with the powerful rimshot. If you specifically want a rimshot, just write an annotation. If you need to switch between cymbals, either annotate it or use a different note.



4. Don't write out fills unless you need a specific signature fill. Instead, just write fill from the beat you want the drummer to start from.

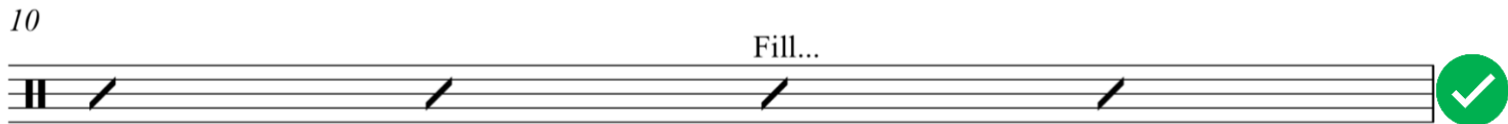
8



9



10



11



5. When the drummer has a long break, notate musical cues for orientation.

13



32




6. Include Tempo (ideally bpm) and style of song and groove

♩=130

70ies Funk

7. When possible, each line should have 4, 8, 12, 16 bars.

56



60



8. Lines you want the drummer to play unisono with the band write into the staff. Lines you just want the drummer to be aware of write on top of the staff (drummer keeps playing time but might support the line with bass drum or snare drum).

64 Unisono



68 Awareness



9. Notate a basic groove, not all variations you can think of. Your drummer will play variations of what's notated according to taste.

72



74



76



10. Include a legend. There's no standardized way of writing for drums. To avoid any confusion, include a legend. What's most common:

84

Snare Tom 1 Tom 2 Tom 3 HH HH open HH closed Ride Crash Rimclick Ghost note

Bass drum HH Foot

BONUS TIP!

Ask a drummer to quickly review the sheet music. Everyone is friends with a drummer, they're happy to help!

#drummersaregreat