

Parts Of The Kit

Below is the notation key I use when transcribing. While this can be used as a guide to general reading it's important to note that there is no set format for notating drum kit. This means that a sign I use to represent something may not be the same in some one elses notation.

bass drum **second bass drum** **snare** **half rim shot** **snare played on the rim** **second snare** **additional high tom** **high tom**

mid tom **additional mid tom** **floor tom** **second floor tom** **ride** **bell of ride** **ride edge** **second ride**

left side crash (high) **right side crash (low)** **second left side crash** **second right side crash** **splash** **china** **closed hi hat** **open hi hat** **chime**

1/2 open hi hat **hi hat pedal** **hi hat pedal splashed** **choked crash** **tambourine in old notation** **tambourine** **cowbell** **shaker**
can be pitched like toms

Notes on notation

With the closed and open hi hat markings, you will only see the marking on the first hi hat, you are to presume that every hi hat after that is the same until marked otherwise.

The choked crash sign shown above (a '+' above a crash) can be used on any cymbal.

A '2' can be found over any cymbal, I've included the crash cymbals above but it is also common to see it above a splash or a china.

The most common question I get asked to do with notation is about notes played on cymbals that have a circle around them. When a Minim (Half Note) or Semi Brieve (Whole note) are written with a standard note head the 'blob' is hollowed out. With cymbals there is nothing to hollow out so a circle is drawn around the x. See bar 67 of Adeles Rolling In The Deep (available from the site for free) for an example of a Semi Brieve cymbal.