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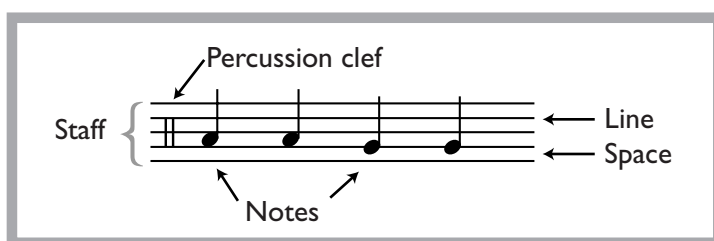
CHAPTER 1

Basic Terminology and Note Values

THE STAFF, MEASURES AND TIME SIGNATURES

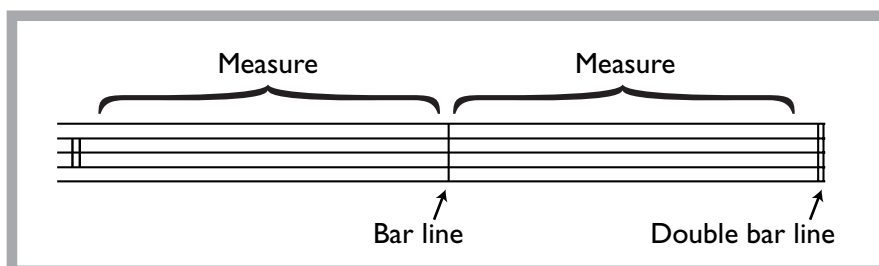
THE STAFF

Music is written by placing *notes* on a *staff* of five lines and four spaces. The symbol at the beginning of the staff, which looks like two vertical lines, is called a *percussion clef*. The percussion clef tells you that the music on the staff is for drums. Each line and space represents a different instrument in the drumset.




MEASURES

Beats, the most basic units of musical time, are grouped into *measures* of equal length—that is, each measure contains the same number of beats. Measures are marked with vertical *bar lines*. Short sections and excerpts end with a *double bar line*.



TIME SIGNATURES

At the beginning of every musical piece there is a *time signature*. A time signature tells you how to count the music. The top number tells you how many beats are in each measure; the bottom number tells you which kind of note (see “Note Values” on page 7) gets one beat. The most common time signature is $\frac{4}{4}$.

$\frac{4}{4}$ = Four beats per measure
 $\frac{4}{4}$ = Quarter note  gets one beat

DOUBLE-TIME ROCK BEATS

Double-time is also very common in rock drumming. This is the illusion of the time speeding up or “doubling.” You can hear many examples of this rhythm in heavy metal or thrash drumming.

To get this effect, play *snare drum accents* on all of the offbeats (all of the “&s”) within the measure. Here is a double-time beat.

♩ = 120

A

Track 31

This is an example of a regular beat (the first two measures) going into a double-time beat (the last two measures).

♩ = 120

B

Here is another example of a double-time beat, this time accomplished by alternating snare and bass drum hits in eighth notes.

♩ = 120

C