

# DRUM LESSONS IN LA.COM

## THE RESPONSIBLE TIMEKEEPER

Generally when we play with a click track, it gives us the first part of the beat and we are responsible for the rest of the subdivisions. These exercises will help you to sharpen your timekeeping skills by focusing on those subdivisions.

Let's focus on accenting the four parts of the sixteenth notes in a quarter note pulse. We will start by playing one measure of straight sixteenth notes followed by one measure of accents. Set your metronome to play the sixteenth notes to guide you and once you are comfortable with playing that, change the metronome to play quarter notes. The chart seems rather simple to play but simple ain't necessarily easy.

The image displays four staves of drum notation, each representing a 4/4 measure. Each staff is divided into two measures. The first measure of each staff contains a quarter note pulse, which is subdivided into four sixteenth notes. The second measure of each staff contains four accents, each placed over a sixteenth note. The accents are marked with a greater-than sign (>) above the note head. The notation is as follows:

- Staff 1: First measure has four straight sixteenth notes. Second measure has four accents on sixteenth notes.
- Staff 2: First measure has four straight sixteenth notes. Second measure has four accents on sixteenth notes.
- Staff 3: First measure has four straight sixteenth notes. Second measure has four accents on sixteenth notes.
- Staff 4: First measure has four straight sixteenth notes. Second measure has four accents on sixteenth notes.

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Now we are going to play *only* the specific subdivisions for the second measure of the line. You don't have to accent these notes. What is important is that they are played correctly in time. Again, set a metronome play the sixteenth notes and once you get the hang of it, change the metronome to play quarter notes.



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