

# Quarter Notes Reading and Sticking

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Hi everyone, welcome to my first tutorial for Drummer Magazine. The idea of this section is to start right from the beginning and take you through a step-by-step course on kit playing, reading, rudiments and stickings. This is not necessarily just for beginners but could be very helpful to all of you out there that have been playing a while but never got round to learning how to read. So here goes! In exercises 1 to 4 we are going to put together a quarter note pattern.

## Ex 1

In this first exercise we are establishing a pulse or tempo. To do this we play 4 beats on the hi-hats over and over again. It is really important that you count 1,2,3,4 as you play and keep the count steady - about 80bpm for those of you with metronomes. These beats are called quarter notes and 4 quarter notes make 1 bar. If you are right handed, play the hi-hats with your right hand and the reverse for left handed players.

## Ex 2

We are now going to add a bass drum part to our quarter notes on the hi-hats. The bass drum will play with the hi-hats on beats 1 and 3. Remember to count, keep it steady and don't rush.

## Ex 3

Now we add the snare drum. To save any confusion, if you're playing the hi-hats with your right hand, your left plays the snare drum and vice-versa. The snare is played with the hi-hats on beats 2 and 4 (opposite to the bass drum). We now have a complete quarter note pattern.

## Ex 4

In this exercise I have moved the quarter notes from the hi-hats to the ride cymbal and added a hi-hat foot which is played on beats 2 and 4 with the snare drum. This will give you a fuller sound.

## Ex 5

We are now playing the quarter notes on the snare drum. Make sure you practise both stickings as it will pay off big time if you can lead with either hand. A constant R L R L or L R L R sticking is called a single stroke.

## Ex 6

Time for a rest! For every note we also have an equivalent rest, so in this exercise I have placed a rest on beat 2. Make sure you still count all 4 quarter notes, even if you're not playing them all, as this will keep you steady.

## Ex 7

We now place a rest on beat 3.

## Ex 8

And finally a rest on beat 4.

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