

# Anatomy of a drum beat

There are many different kinds of drum beats and most of them follow similar rules. The hi hat or ride plays most, if not all, of the subdivisions. The subdivision changes from drum beat to drum beat, but most are either eighth note (two divisions per beat) or sixteenth note (four divisions per beat). The snare drum usually plays on beats two and four (back beat) or on beat three to create a half time feel. A cross stick or clap can be used in place of the snare drum. The bass drum changes the most from beat to beat. Most beats have the bass drum on at least one strong beat (one and three). Here are three common drum beats

## Dance Beat

A dance beat usually has the bass drum on all four counts with the snare playing the back beat. The hi hat can play either eighth note or sixteenth subdivision.

	1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
H.H.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
S.D.			X				X	
B.D.	X		X		X		X	

## Rock Beat

A rock beat is similar to a dance beat, but the bass drum can change more often. The bass drum is the most conversational part of the rock beat and can follow a one, two, or four measure pattern. The subdivision instrument (ride or hi hat) switches during section changes in the form of a rock tune.

	1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
H.H.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	O
S.D.			X				X	
B.D.	X			X	X			

## Funk Beat

A funk beat is similar to a dance and a rock beat, but the bass drum can be moved to different sixteenth note subdivisions. The subdivision can also be slightly swung (shuffle) in a funk beat.

	1	e	+	a	2	e	+	a	3	e	+	a	4	e	+	a
H.H.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
S.D.					X								X			
B.D.	X							X	X		X					