

Not all set-ups will be the same. We can create our own unique instrument

This example is a way to notate for an *Expanded Drum Set* (a set-up of 6 Pieces and beyond). For example, 20 pieces are shown (below) ...

Drum-Write™ templates go from 1 drum to plus 20 drums (electronic batter pads, TAMA Octobans, Roto Toms™ etc)

Legend

High Hat
Bass Drum (kick)
High Hat pedal
Snare Drum

Musical notation for a 4-piece drum set in 4/4 time. The notation is spread across four staves. The top two staves represent the High Hat and Snare Drum, with notes marked with 'x' and '+' symbols. The bottom two staves represent the Bass Drum and High Hat pedal, with notes marked with 'x' and '+' symbols. The notation shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth and quarter notes.

Legend

4 Roto-Toms
Tom-Toms 10" 14" 16"
4 Electronic Pads 12" 15" 18"
Mounted Bass Drums 18" 20" 22" 24"
Crash Cymbal

Musical notation for an expanded drum set in 6/4 time. The notation is spread across four staves. The top two staves represent the Roto-Toms and Tom-Toms, with notes marked with '6' and '3' symbols. The bottom two staves represent the Electronic Pads and Mounted Bass Drums, with notes marked with '6' and '3' symbols. The notation shows a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and quarter notes.

With this approach, a common notation system can be used among those drummers whose setup is larger than the traditional 5 piece...simply include a legend of what is setup around you. Sight-reading another's setup will not be expected as it is for sight-reading the tradition 5-piece. Above is a drum set showing over 20 instruments. Naturally, most set-ups will not contain extremely large drums as notated above.

By adding clefs, notation for tuned percussion instruments is quite easily done. This author has always encouraged students to think more about including tuned percussion instruments in their personal setup...an interesting area for the drummer/percussionist to pursue.