

A musical staff template consisting of two systems. Each system has a grand staff with five lines. The top system is labeled 'HANDS' and the bottom system is labeled 'PEDALS'. Each system has a vertical bar on the left side, indicating the start of a measure.

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Not all setups will be the same. We can create our own unique instrument.

Legend

This musical notation shows a drum set setup with a legend. The legend includes: High Hat, Bass Drum (kick), Snare Drum, and High Hat pedal. The notation is written on a grand staff with a 4/4 time signature. It features various rhythmic patterns and symbols for each instrument, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests, with some notes marked with 'x' or '+' to indicate specific techniques or accents.

Legend

This musical notation shows a large drum set setup with a legend. The legend includes: 4 Roto-Toms, 4 Electronic Pads, Tom Toms (10", 14", 16", 18", 20", 22", 24"), and Crash Cymbal. The notation is written on a grand staff with a 6/4 time signature. It features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth notes, eighth notes, and quarter notes, with some notes marked with '6' or '3' to indicate specific techniques or accents. The notation is more intricate than the first example, showing a wider range of rhythmic possibilities.

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. Easily sight-reading another's setup will not be expected as it is for sight-reading the traditional 5-piece. (Who knows what a creative person might think up for his/her unique instrument). Above is a drumset showing over 20 pieces. Naturally, most setups 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 a drummer/percussionist to pursue.