

Lesson 2: My first DnB Beat

Activity 1.1 Why is the { k } sound described as a plosive?

Activity 1.2 In standard beatbox notation we use the { - } symbol to show when no sound is made in a beat pattern.

So, in the following 8-beat pattern, there is no sound made on the 2nd and 6th beats.

{ B - k k / Psh - k k }

Have a go at sounding this beat pattern. You may find it helpful to count in your head as you make the pattern: 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8.

Activity 1.3 The quiet rimshot { k } can be used instead of a hi-hat. Try the following 8-beat patterns, repeating each one twenty times:

- 1. { B k k k / Psh k k k }**
- 2. { B k k k / Pf k k k }**
- 3. { B k k k / Ps k k k }**
- 4. { B k k k / Ph k k k }**

Activity 2.1 Practice the following beat patterns – try each one 20 times:

1. { B - t k }
2. { Psh - t k }
3. { t k B - }
4. { t k Psh - }

Activity 3.1 Learn the following 16-beat:

{ B t t t / Psh t t B / t t B t / Psh t t t }

First, try each pattern of four first:

1. { B t t t }
2. { Psh t t B }
3. { t t B t }
4. { Psh t t t }

Then, try combining the first two and the last two patterns of four:

1. { B t t t / Psh t t B }
2. { t t B t / Psh t t t }

Finally, try the whole beat pattern:

{ B t t t / Psh t t B / t t B t / Psh t t t }

Activity 3.2 Try writing and performing your own 16-beat pattern:

{ / / / }

Activity 4.1 This kind of illusion works because the hi-hat is quieter than the kick drum and the snare drum. The brain thinks the hi-hat is being masked by the louder sounds.

Try making your own auditory illusion, by first, starting with the hi-hat and then building up the beat. For the greatest effect, make sure your kick drum and snare drum are much louder than your hi-hat.

Perform the following set of beat patterns, repeating each pattern twice before moving on to the next pattern. Remember, timing is everything, so try not to go too fast:

{ t t t t / t t t t }

{ t t Psh t / t t Psh t }

{ B t Psh t / t B Psh t }

{ t t Psh t / t t Psh t }

{ t t t t / t t t t }

Activity 5.1 Practice the pattern by first breaking it down into four four-beat phrases:

1. { B - t k }
2. { Psh - B - }
3. { t k B - }
4. { Psh - t k }

Combine the first two four-beat phrases and the last two four-beat phrases and practice these:

1. { B - t k / Psh - B - }
2. { t k B - / Psh - t k }

Finally, try the whole beat pattern:

{ B - t k / Psh - B - / t k B - / Psh - t k }

Remember to start slowly – better to get the beat pattern in time but slowly rather than fast and out of time!

Activity 5.2 Try writing your own 16-beat pattern that uses the fast hi-hats { t k }.

{ / / / }

Activity 6.1 The Classic Rimshot { K } can be used instead of the snare drum in 16-beat patterns. Try the following pattern. Again, you may wish to break it down and learn the pattern in four-beat phrases.

{ B t t t / K t t B / t t B t / K t t t }

Activity 6.2 Now you have learned more sounds, you can try using multiple snare drums in a beat. Try performing the following patterns:

1. { B t t t / Psh t t B / t t B t / K t t t }
2. { B t t t / K t t t / t t t t / Psh t t t }
3. { K t t t / K t t K / t k t k / Psh t t t }
4. { B t t B / K t t B / t B t B / Psh t t B }

Activity 7.1 Practice the beat pattern:

{ B - t - / K - B - / t - K / t k t k }

Activity 7.2 It is difficult to quickly move between the { k } and { K } sounds. Try practicing the following patterns:

1. { k K k K / k K k K }
2. { k k K K / k k K K }
3. { k K k k / K k K K }
4. { B t k K / B t k K }
5. { B t K k / B t K k }

Activity 8.1 Practice the beat pattern from the video:

{ B - t - / K - B - / t - K / t k t k }

{ B - t - / K - B - / t - K / * - - - }

Activity 8.2 Often the beatboxer needs to take a breath on an 8th or 16th beat. Try the following patterns:

{ B t Psh B / t B Psh * }

{ B t t t / Psh t t B / t t B t / Psh t t * }