
Lesson 4: Tongue Grooves

Activity 1.1 Make the closed hi-hat { t } sound by varying the tip of the tongue position (from teeth to alveolar ridge). Can you describe in what way the sound changes timbre?

Activity 1.2 Repeat activity 1.1 but this time change the mouth position. Try 'ee' and 'oo' mouth positions. In what way does this change the timbre of the sound?

Activity 2.1 Practice these different { t } and { d } patterns:

{ d t d t / d t d t }

{ d d t t / d d t t }

{ d t d d / t d t t }

{ d t t t / d t t t }

Activity 2.2 The dry kick is unforced. What might a forced { d } sound like? How would it be notated?

Activity 3.1 Once you have mastered the { T } sound, it is now a case of learning to move between the sounds. Try repeating these 2-beat patterns.

{ d t }

{ d T }

{ t T }

{ t d }

{ T d }

{ T t }

Activity 4.1 Design a plosive and fricative combination matrix!

Draw a grid and write all the plosives along the x axis and all the fricatives along the y axis. What combinations can you come up with?

When you have made your matrix, try out the sounds!

Activity 5.1 Practice the following phrases:

{ d t Th }

{ d t Tf }

{ d t Tsh }

{ d t Ts }

Activity 6.1 Practice the beat pattern from the video:

{ ds t Tf t / d d Tf t }

Activity 6.2 We can use the 808 Snare and variations with the Classic Kick too. Try the following electro beat patterns. Try them slowly at first. Remember to count!

{ B - - - / Tf - B - / - - B - / Tf B - - }

{ B - s k / Tf - B - / s k B - / Tf B s k }

{ B - s k / T k B - / s k B k / T B s k }

{ B - t k / Tf - B - / t k B - / Tf B t k }

Activity 7.1 Practice humming with each tongue sound:

{ dn }

{ tn }

{ Tn }

Activity 7.2 Practice the following tongue groove:

{ dn tn Tfn tn / dn dn Tfn tn }

Activity 7.3 As SBN is designed to provide a simple notation of sounds and beat patterns, it does not provide note or pitch information. In other words there is no way of showing what notes to hum.

Devise your own 8-beat or 16-beat tongue groove base on what you have learned so far.

8. Open hi-hat { ^tsh }

Time 1½ mins**Video** <http://www.beatboxjam.com/account/lesson-3-breath-control/inward-open-hi-hat-ts/>**Summary** This lesson introduces a simple sound that can be made whilst breathing in. It is an inward aspirated { t } sound, { ^tsh }.**Activity 8.1** The open hi-hat is a cymbal sound that is slightly longer than a closed hi-hat.

Now the observant amongst you may well have noticed that SBN (Standard Beatbox Notation) has its limitations. For example, { ^sh } could be { sh } made inwards unaspirated, or { s } made inwards and aspirated.

Therefore the sound { ^tsh } could be made in two ways. The problem arises because in English the sh (as in shout) uses two letters to describe one sound. To get round this, the inward open hi-hat could be notated as { ^tssh }.

In this beat pattern, the open hi-hat is at the end of the beat pattern enabling the beatboxer to draw breath and make a relevant sound at the same time. Have a go.

{ B - t - / Psh - t B / t - t - / Psh - ^tssh - }

9. Classic Handclap { ^CLh }

Time 3 mins

Video <http://www.beatboxjam.com/account/lesson-3-breath-control/classic-handclap-clh/>

Summary The Classic Handclap is an inward aspirated sound. It is an inward aspirated { CL } and is notated { ^CLh }.

Activity 9.1 The beat patterns used in the video are an 8-beat and 16-beat. Try the following beat patterns.

{ B t t t / ^CLh t t t }

and

{ B t t t / ^CLh t t B / t t B t / ^CLh t t t }

Activity 9.2 The open hi-hat { ^tssh } and classic handclap { ^CLh } are two examples of inward aspirated sounds.

Come up with three other inward aspirated sounds and notate them.

e.g. { ^Bh }, { ^Ph }, { ^Kh }

Activity 9.3 Can you notate and perform a Drum and Bass (DnB) pattern using { ^CLh }?