

Lesson 4: Tongue Grooves

About

This fourth lesson introduces the student to a sound set that makes all the sounds with the tip of the tongue. It can be considered a different 'sound set'. The student will encounter the first sound that is not native to the English language, namely the 808 snare (named after the TR-808 drum machine that it emulates). The new kick { d } and snare { T } will be combined into a beat pattern, and with an added bassline forms what is called a tongue groove.

Lesson Aims

At the end of this lesson the student will be able to:

- Explain and demonstrate the difference between a { t } and { T } sound.
- Combine the { T } with fricatives to form new combination sounds.
- Utilise the { d }, { t } and { T } sounds along with humming to create a tongue groove.

How to use the material

Video Title: **Lesson 4: Tongue Grooves**

Video Duration: **12 minutes**

Link: <https://vimeo.com/58926699>

The video is divided into 7 sections. The whole lesson can be played continuously or paused after each section. The sections can also be played individually from the submenu. For example: One idea for a lesson might be to play the whole video through, then play each subsection followed by the activities.

1. { t } Variations

Time 1½ mins

Video <https://vimeo.com/60345222>

Summary In this lesson the beatboxer will vary the timbre of the sound using different tongue positions.

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?

2. Dry Kick { d }

Time 1½ mins

Video <https://vimeo.com/60345223>

Summary The dry kick { d } is an unforced d (as in dog)

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?

3. 808 Snare { T }

Time 2 mins

Video <https://vimeo.com/60345224>

Summary The 808 Snare { T } is a forced { t }. It is not a sound common to English and therefore can take some time to learn.

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 }

4. { ds }

Time 1 min

Video <https://vimeo.com/60345225>

Summary The dry kick is a plosive and we know that plosives and fricatives can be combined to make new sounds. The dry kick { **d** } can be combined with { **s** } to make { **ds** }.

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?

For example:

	B	P	K	t	CL	d	T
f	Bf	Pf	Kf	tf	CLf	df	Tf
s	Bs	Ps	Ks	ts	CLs	ds	Ts
sh	Bsh	Psh	Ksh	tsh	CLsh	dsh	Tsh

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

5. 808 Snare Variations

Time 1 min

Video <https://vimeo.com/60362486>

Summary The 808 Snare { **T** } can be combined with a fricative such as { **h** }, { **f** }, { **sh** }, or { **s** }.

Activity 5.1 Practice the following phrases:

{ **d t Th** }

{ **d t Tf** }

{ **d t Tsh** }

{ **d t Ts** }

6. { ds t Tf t / d d Tf t }

Time 1½ mins

Video <https://vimeo.com/60362487>

Summary In this section we combine the { d }, { t } and { T } into a simple beat pattern.

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 }

7. A Tongue Groove

Time 1½ mins

Video <https://vimeo.com/60363091>

Summary All tongue sounds can be made whilst humming (outwards) at the same time. A hum is noted using SBN { n }.

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 }?