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Introducing the Crash Cymbal

The Crash Cymbal.

There are a number of cymbals in the standard drum kit set-up. Each has a specific role in providing different 'colours' and dynamics to our playing.

We are going to look at bringing the **crash cymbal** into our playing first, as it works well with phrases and fills and completes our first section of drum studies.



Lesson Objectives

- Introduce the **crash cymbal** into our playing.
- Understand the use of the crash cymbal in defining accents.
- Develop use of the crash cymbal into grooves and fills

Playing the Crash Cymbal in a Groove.

You can use the crash cymbal just about anywhere in music, but generally it is used to support an accent. We are going to develop playing the crash cymbal on beat 1 in this lesson as part of a groove firstly, then as part of a fill as well.

In this first exercise, you will see that we have a new note position on the staff. This is the crash cymbal and as we said it is on beat 1.

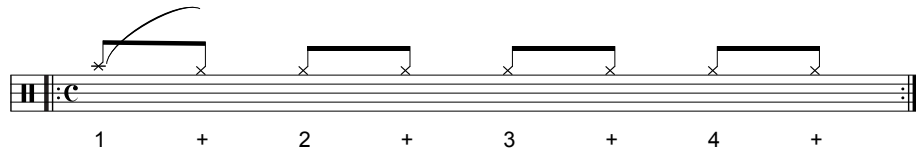
To be precise, the crash cymbal is on the line above the hi-hat. It has a cross to represent the fact that it is a cymbal, as opposed to a filled in note, which we tend to use to represent drums.

We are going to play the crash cymbal on beat 1 and then continue the rest of the bar with eighth notes on the hi-hat. This will provide good groundwork for bringing in the bass drum and snare drum.

To play the crash cymbal in this pattern, count through the bar as normal, bringing the hand up to play the crash cymbal on beat 1 and then back down to the hi-hat to continue for the rest of the bar.

As usual watch the video and then play along with the play-along files.

Exercise 1: lesson009.idsicc.01

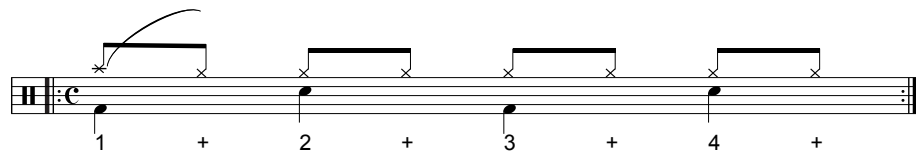


Adding the Bass Drum and Snare Drum

Now that we have the hi-hat and crash cymbal part worked out with the groove, we should introduce the bass drum and snare drum to complete the pattern.

Note that the crash cymbal is always played with the bass drum underneath it, adding depth to the sound of the cymbal accent. Remember as always to count out loud.

Exercise 2: lesson009.idsicc.02



Playing the crash cymbal as part of a fill.

The most common use of the crash cymbal is after a fill. Accordingly, we are now going to look at including the crash cymbal whilst playing a fill.

Probably the best way of introducing the crash cymbal into a fill, is by playing the crash cymbal as part of a single stroke roll. The next exercise is basically a single stroke roll played on the snare drum.

The key difference is that the first note, on Beat 1, is not played on the snare drum, it has been moved onto the cymbal.

Exercise 3: lesson009.idsicc.03



1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a

As we said earlier, the crash cymbal sounds better with depth added to it. Accordingly we are going to add the bass drum. The next exercise adds the bass drum underneath the crash cymbal on Beat 1.

Exercise 4: lesson009.idsicc.04



1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a

Playing the crash as part of a groove and fill

This example uses the crash cymbal with a groove and fill.

The example has a simple bars groove with the crash cymbal on beat 1, followed by a single stroke roll around the Kit. When you get to the end of the fill, take the repeat sign back to the beginning of the exercise and play again.

This will have the effect of playing a crash cymbal to accent the end of the fill.

Exercise 5: lesson009.idsicc.05

1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a

Practise suggestions

As well as running through the exercises in this lesson, you could perhaps go back and look at the fills on pages 2 and 3 of *Lesson 4* adding the crash cymbal at the beginning of the bar of groove.

Work with the DrumXtractor to develop the speed and your stamina and as always try and play to some favourite CDs.