

ONE-LINE TABS

DRUM TABS in One Line

One line tabs is a simple drum notes writing system to write common rhythms for performing in a compact and fast way.

This is example how transcribed song looks like, and fits on one page:

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Alien Ant Farm - Smooth Criminal 127bpm  
Rock/Even  
  
I | ; ; ; y! [ ; S BB S | BB S BB SB ]/{h vary} 8  
A [ // // // ] 8 + 7 | fill // // y! |  
Pre [ // // // | // // y! ]/{Ho} 8F  
B [ // // // | // // y! ]/{ride} 8  
Pre [ // // // | // // y! ]/{Ho} 6 | BB S BB S | ; (BS) ; S! |  
P [ // // // ] 4F  
A [ // // // ] 3 | fill // // y! |  
Pre [ // // // | // // y! ]/{Ho} 8F  
B [ // // // | // // y! ]/{ride} 8  
Pre [ // // // | // // y! ]/{Ho} 2 | BB S BB S | ; (BS) ; S! |  
P [ // // // | // // y! ] 4 + 4  
S [ // // // ] 8(fill in endings)  
Pre [ // // // | // // y! ]/{Ho} 8  
B [ // // // | // // y! ]/{ride} 8 + 8  
P [ // // // | // // y! ] 4F + 3 | // B! ; |
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I hope you can't understand what's written over here, but if you are interested, take a look down below:

ONE LINE TABS Instructions

SOUNDS MARKING:

H S B t T F ! R r

Hat Snare dr. Bass dr. Tom 1 Tom 2 Floor tom Crash Ride Crosstick

RESTS MARKING:

- ; y y

Bar rest, Quarter note rest, Eighth note rest, Sixteenth note rest

1. Sounds marking

- H – Hi-Hat cymbal
- S – Snare drum
- B – Bass drum
- C – Crosstick/Clap
- t - 1 Tom
- T - 2 Tom
- F - Floor Tom
- ! – Crash (with bass drum)/Accent
- R - Ride
- ^ - light accent on cymbal (ride)

2. Rests marking

- Bar rest
- ; Quarter note rest
- y Eighth note rest
- . Sixteenth note rest

3. Cymbals marking:

CYMBALS MARKING:

{H8} {H16} {O8}

9 {HO} {Hh} {hH}

12 {H.hh} {R8} {C4}

{H8} – Hi-Hat plays eighth notes

{H16} - Hi-Hat plays sixteenth notes

{O} - Hi-Hat open

{H12} – Hi-hat plays twelve eighths.

{Hh} - {hH} Accented hi-hat part (Uppercase letter means accent)

{yH} – Hi-hat plays on every 2nd /8th note

{HhHh} – Hi-hat plays accented sixteenth notes.

{H.hh} – Hi-hat plays on 1st, 3rd, 4th sixteenth notes, except 2nd sixteenth note is rest.

{H vary} – Varied hi-hat pattern (eighth and sixteenth notes mix)

{HO} – 1st eighth note closed hi-hat, 2nd eighth note is open hi-hat

{Hho.} – Sixteenth notes pattern – 1st, 2nd notes are closed hi-hat, 3rd note is open hi-hat, last note is rest (written), but in performance it can be still played open hi-hat.

{H.h} – It can be shuffle rhythm or like 12/8ths style.

{HhH hHh} – Varied hi-hat rhythm.

4. Rhythm spacing

| 1 2 3 4 | - Quarter notes or quarter note groups are divided by single space always in a bar.

| 1& 2& 3& 4& | - Eighth notes are written nearby and uppercase. Quarter note groups are divided by space: | BB SS BB SS |

| 1e&a 2e&a 3e&a 4e&a | - Sixteenth notes are written in groups by 4 letters. Quarter note groups are divided by space: It is recommended that First letter of the group would be Uppercase (except Tom1- t):
| Ssss Ssss Ssss Ssss | Ssss tttt TTTT Ffff |

5. Bars

| B S B S | - One rhythm bar (Bass drum, snare drum, bass drum, snare drum are played in quarter notes)

[B S B S] 4 – This squared brackets bar is looped for 4 bars.

[/ / / /] 4 – Slash bar means repeat previous rhythm.

6. One Line Tabs System

[B S B S]/{H8} 2 – When rhythm is written, in the end of the bar hi-hat part is added /{H8}, and also duration for how many bars it should be repeated.

[B SS B S]/{H8} 3 | SS tt TT FF |

3 Bars of rhythm and last single bar drum fill.

[/ / / /] 8 | S ; ; ; | S ; ; ; | ! y ! ; ! | y ! ; ! ! |

8th bars of rhythm, in 9th,10th bar snare drum plays on 1st quarter note. 2nd, 3rd, 4th quarter notes are rests, 11th bar accents on 1st, 4th, 7th eighth notes. 12th bar accents on 2nd, 5th, 7th eighth notes.

[/ / / /] 6 | / / / SS tt | Ssss tt T.TT FFF. |

•6 bars of previous rhythm.

• Next bar: two quarter note groups are played as in previous bar, then 2 eighth notes played on snare, and two eighth notes are played on tom 1.

• Last bar: 4 sixteenth notes are played on snare drum. Two eighth notes are played on tom 1. 1st, 3rd, 4th sixteenth notes are played on tom 2 (third quarter notes group). 1st, 2nd, 3rd, sixteenth notes are played on floor tom (fourth quarter notes group).

7. Song's structure

I - Intro

P - Play / Instrumental

A - Verse

Pre – Pre-chorus

B - Chorus

C - Bridge

S - Solo

O - Outro

It is possible to add more letters to different structural parts of the song: ABCDEFGH or A1, A2, B1, B2, B3, P2 and so on...

A [B S BB S]/{H8} 4

Pre [/ / / /]/{H16} 4

B [BB SB B S]/{O} 4

8. More markings

(SB) or (BS) – Two notes are played at the same time (Snare drum plays together with a Bass drum)

[B S..(b) B S] 2 – When playing for the first time, avoid (b), second time play (b)

[B (SB) B (SB)]/{H16} 8

Simple sixteenth notes rock rhythm.

[/ / / /] 8F

F near the number of bars means add drum fill in the last bar

A [B S..b .bb. SB]/{H vary} 8

Verse rhythm with a varied hi-hat is played for 8th bars.

B [/ / / /] 4 + 4 + 4 + 4

Every 4 bars add crash on 1.

P [/ / / S.. "]

Last sixteenth note in this bar (") is double stroke (or two 32nd notes)

P [/ / / ' S] – Snare drum is played with flam. ' Means flam.

P | ! @ @ @ | - @ means fermata, it can last forever.

P [/ / / /] 8? – Not quite clear how the ending will be (look and listen).

C [B S..s yB S | BB S..s BB S]/{H8} 7 | ! S..s STfs Sbss |

Two bars loop for seven bars, and drum fill.

P *[S S S S]/{H8}

* It can mean some special part or instrument like tambourine.

P [B S 3(! ! !)] – Half note triplets

P [/ / 3(Sss) 3(Sss)] – Quarter triplets

B -b[/ / / /]/{rims} 10 | B ; ; ; | fill |

-b (without bass drum), {rims} – played on rims.

9. Additional information

- When starting to transcribe song, its recommended in the beginning to write artist name, song title, and tempo.
- Next line is for writing a musical style, and if notes are even, or swung.
- Brushes or Sticks
- If there would be playback when performing, write how many bars of click pre-count there is.
- Which sampler preset it would be.
- Sometimes you can just write [synth] 4 [pad] 4 [vocals] 8 [piano] 2 [house] [rock] [shuffle] and other information.
- Its easier when adding additional information near bars [+bass / / / /], [+guit / / / /], [-pn / / / /] or some instrument of drumset takes of -b[/ / / /], -s[/ / / /]
If there was rhythm played on Crosstick [B C B C], but later it changes to snare drum, then its possible to mark it this way [/ S / S]
- If rhythm is changing in every bar, it is better to write cymbals part before first bar +h8| B S BB S | yB S BB SB | B S yB S | B S B S |
- It is possible to make one empty line after chorus, to divide songs structural parts.

10. Example

Kings of leon - Sex on fire 153bpm
Rock/Even

I | ; ; ; guit [guit] 4
P [B (SB) B (CB)]/{O} 8
A [B (SB) B (CB)]/{H8} 8
A [B (SB) B (SB)]/{O} 8
B [/ / / /]/{O} 8
A [B (SB) B (CB)]/{H8} 8
A [B (SB) B (SB)]/{Ho} 4 [/ / / /]/{O} 4
B [/ / / /]/{O} 8 + 8
A [/ / / /]/{h vary} 8 [/ / / /]/{Ho} 4
A [/ / / /]/{O} 3 | / / Ssss Ssss |
B [/ / / /]/{O} 4F + 4F
B [B B B B] 8
P [FF B B B]/{B4} 3 | FF B FF B |
P [build toms fill] 4F
B [/ / / /]/{C4} 8 + 8 | !! @@@ |

More examples you can find in website:
<http://www.BugnuPamokosVilniuje.lt/Natos/>