Drum Kit Notation Check

Name each voice, count the kick and the snare, match drum tab to notation, find the note that moved.

1 · NAME THE VOICE

Read the line or space, the head and the stem. Write **kick**, **snare**, **hi-hat** or **crash**.

1 

2 

3 

4 

5 

6 

2 · WRITE THE COUNTS

The hi-hat plays every eighth note. Write the counts of the **kick** and of the **snare** in each groove (1, 1&, 2, 2& …).

1 

Kick _____

Snare _____

2 

Kick _____

Snare _____

3 

Kick _____

Snare _____

3 · TAB TO STAFF

In drum tab, each row is one voice and each column one eighth note: **x** = hi-hat stroke, **o** = drum stroke, **–** = no stroke. HH = hi-hat, SN = snare, KD = kick drum. Match each tab to its notation card. One card matches neither tab.

Tab 1

	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
HH	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
SN	–	–	o	–	–	–	o	–
KD	o	–	–	–	o	–	–	o

Tab 2

	1	&	2	&	3	&	4	&
HH	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
SN	–	–	o	–	–	–	o	–
KD	o	–	–	o	–	o	–	–

A 

B 

C 

Tab 1 = card _____ Tab 2 = card _____

4 · SPOT THE CHANGE



One note in bar 2 is in a different place than in bar 1. Which voice moved, and from which count to which count?

Voice _____ from _____ to _____

Then check with track 3.

Hint

Use the legend from Handout 496: crash = × head, ledger line above the staff; hi-hat = × head, space above the staff; snare = round head, space 3; kick = round head, space 1. Stems up = hands, stems down = feet.

Listen: **tissimo.co/worksheets/drum-kit-notation-check** · tracks 1–2 = tabs 1–2, track 3 = Part 4; each played twice at quarter = 80 after a one-bar count-in. General MIDI drum sounds: a rhythm model, not a drum-tone demonstration.

Answers. 1 · 1. hi-hat, 2. kick, 3. crash, 4. snare, 5. crash, 6. hi-hat.
2 · groove 1: kick 1, 3&, snare 2, 4; groove 2: kick 1, 1&, 3, snare 2, 4; groove 3: kick 1, 2&, 3, snare 2, 4, 4&.
3 · tab 1 = card C, tab 2 = card A (card B is the decoy). 4 · the kick moved from 3 to 2&.

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