Strike, Ring, Muffle.

A struck timpani head can keep ringing. Plan the note's ending as carefully as its start. Use one drum, pre-tuned by your teacher to C3.

1 · ATTACK AND RELEASE ARE DIFFERENT EVENTS

Lesson policy: let every note ring for its full written length, then muffle at the start of its rest. Count through the rest without striking again.



M = muffle here. M is our lesson-only marker, placed at the release boundary. It is not a new attack or a universal orchestral sign. This map shows a half note starting on beat 1.

2 · READ THE SAME TWO BARS BOTH WAYS



Release = attack time + written length. A half note lasts two quarter-note beats; M comes at the next boundary. Keep the whole rest interval clear.

3 · PLAY THE FOUR-BAR RELEASE STUDY



First count and pencil M above each rest that follows a note. Then play after your teacher demonstrates a quiet, comfortable muffle. No retuning or rolls.

Teacher/self check: full note length heard? yes / retry · following rest clear? yes / retry · contact quiet and comfortable? teacher confirms / retry.

In real scores, decide releases with your teacher or director; a rest alone does not impose this lesson's policy in every musical setting.

Try it A half note starts on beat 1. On which beat does M belong? _____ Say the counts while a partner points to attack, ring and release.

Check: beat 3. Study: bar 1—beat 3; bar 2—beat 2; bar 3—beat 4; bar 4—beats 2 and 4.

Listening page after publication: tissimo.co/worksheets/timpani-attack-release-map
Gated sustained C3 reference · quarter = 60 · four pulse clicks first.
Abstract timing only; this is not real timpani resonance or a muffling-sound model.
Use the MP3 to check cutoffs. MIDI contains note timing only; its sound and release depend on your player.

© 2026 Tissimo. All rights reserved.