Blank Drum Notation Sheets: Percussion Clef and Beat Grid Design

Original tasks 1, 2, 3 / complete keys

Task 1

Design a 4/4 drum grid with quarter-note columns for bass drum, snare, and hi-hat. State the column count and one possible placement for each instrument.

Answer: Four columns per bar. One valid layout places bass drum on beat one (column one), snare on beat three (column three), and hi-hat on every beat (columns one to four). Other consistent layouts are acceptable if labeled.

Reason: Quarter-note columns give one column per beat. Each instrument needs a labeled level, and hits go in the column where they begin.

Check: Use the rubric: clef and legend present, four columns, one labeled level per instrument, bar line after column four.

Task 2

A bar of 3/4 uses sixteenth-note columns. How many columns are there, and how many columns belong to each beat?

Answer: Three beats times four subdivisions gives twelve columns. Each beat contains four columns: beat one uses columns one to four, beat two uses five to eight, and beat three uses nine to twelve.

Reason: Multiply beats per bar by subdivisions per beat. Group columns in fours to match each beat.

Check: Count twelve columns and confirm three groups of four, with bar lines after column twelve.

Task 3

Sketch a three-line drum staff legend for hi-hat, snare, and bass drum, and explain why each needs its own level.

Answer: One valid sketch puts hi-hat on the top line, snare on the middle line, and bass drum on the bottom line, each labeled. Separate levels let the reader identify the instrument from vertical position alone.

Reason: A three-line staff has three positions, so three instruments can be separated without ambiguity.

Check: Use the rubric: three labeled levels, one instrument per level, and a clear legend.

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Original tasks 4 / complete keys

Task 4

Explain how to mark a meter change from 4/4 to 3/4 in the middle of a sheet.

Answer: State the new meter at the change point, redraw the grid with the new column count, and place the bar line at the new boundary. In quarter-note columns, 4/4 has four columns and 3/4 has three.

Reason: The grid must follow the meter, so the column count changes with the meter. A clear label prevents misreading.

Check: Check that the bar before the change has four columns and the bar after has three, with the meter written at the change.

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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] The percussion clef and instrument legend are present and readable.
- [ ] The number of grid columns matches the stated meter and subdivision.
- [ ] Each instrument occupies one labeled level consistently.
- [ ] Bar lines fall at correct column boundaries.
- [ ] Marks are legible and placed in the intended columns.

Reflection: What did you check, what did you change, and what will you try next?