Drum Notation Paper: Percussion Clef and Bar Lines Guide

Original worked example / unchanged complete key

Prompt: Create one line of drum staff paper with a percussion clef, four measures, and a simple rhythm. Use a legend: bass drum on the bottom space, snare drum on the middle line. In measure one, write four quarter notes alternating bass and snare. In measure two, write two half notes: bass then snare. Leave measures three and four empty. Describe the layout and check the beat counts.

Answer: Draw five horizontal lines. At the left, draw the percussion clef. Write the legend above: BD = bottom space, SD = middle line. Draw a bar line after the clef, then three more bar lines to make four equal measures. In measure one, place four filled note heads with stems: bottom space, middle line, bottom space, middle line. Each is a quarter note, so the measure totals four beats. In measure two, place a half note on the bottom space and a half note on the middle line; each half note equals two beats, totaling four. Measures three and four contain no notes. Check that all bar lines touch top and bottom staff lines and that note heads sit on the correct spaces or lines.

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Worked / BD bottom space; SD middle line; last two measures empty

BD = bottom space; SD = middle line

