Drum Notation Paper: Percussion Clef and Bar Lines Guide

Original tasks 1, 2 / complete keys

Task 1

Draw one staff line with a percussion clef and three bar lines, creating four measures. In measure one, write four quarter notes on the middle line. Leave the other measures empty. State the total beats in measure one for 4/4 time.

Answer: The staff has a percussion clef at the left and four measures separated by three bar lines. Measure one contains four quarter notes on the middle line. In 4/4 time, four quarter notes equal four beats.

Reason: Each quarter note is one beat. Four quarter notes total four beats, matching the 4/4 time signature. The bar lines create four equal measures.

Check: Count the note heads in measure one: there should be four. Confirm each is a quarter note. Check that three bar lines divide the staff into four measures and that each bar line touches top and bottom lines.

Task 2

Create a legend for a drum staff: hi-hat on the top space, snare on the middle line, bass drum on the bottom space. Draw one measure in 4/4 with two hi-hat quarter notes, one snare quarter note, and one bass drum quarter note. Describe the order and check the beat count.

Answer: Legend: HH = top space, SD = middle line, BD = bottom space. In the measure, place quarter notes in this order: hi-hat, hi-hat, snare, bass drum. Each is one beat, so the measure totals four beats.

Reason: The order follows the prompt. Four quarter notes equal four beats in 4/4. The legend makes the instrument mapping explicit.

Check: Verify the legend lists all three instruments. Count four note heads in the measure. Confirm each note head is on the correct space or line according to the legend. Total beats should be four.

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Original tasks 3, 4 / complete keys

Task 3

Draw two measures in 4/4. In measure one, write a half note on the snare line and a half note on the bass drum space. In measure two, write four eighth notes on the hi-hat space. State the beat count for each measure.

Answer: Measure one: one half note on the middle line (snare) and one half note on the bottom space (bass drum). Each half note equals two beats, so the measure totals four beats. Measure two: four eighth notes on the top space (hi-hat). Each eighth note equals half a beat, so four eighth notes total two beats. To reach four beats, add two quarter-note rests or four more eighth notes. As written, measure two has two beats.

Reason: Half notes are two beats each. Eighth notes are half a beat each. The prompt asks for four eighth notes, which total two beats, not four. This is a deliberate check on beat counting.

Check: Count beats in measure one: 2 + 2 = 4. Count beats in measure two: four eighth notes = 2 beats. Compare to 4/4. If the measure must total four beats, add rests or notes and recount.

Task 4

Design a four-measure line with a percussion clef and bar lines. Use a legend: ride cymbal on the top line, snare on the middle line, bass drum on the bottom space. In measure one, write four quarter notes alternating ride and snare. In measure two, write two quarter notes on bass drum and two quarter rests. In measure three, write one whole note on the bass drum space. In measure four, write four quarter rests. Check that each measure totals four beats in 4/4.

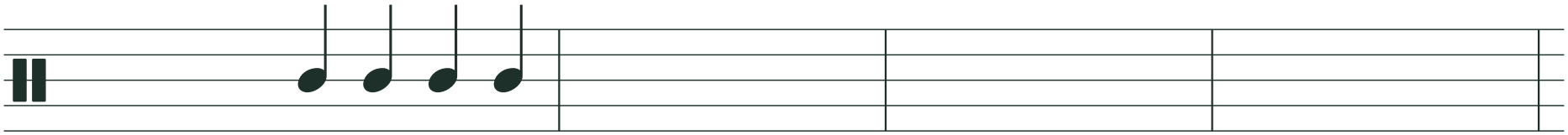
Answer: Legend: RC = top line, SD = middle line, BD = bottom space. Measure one: ride, snare, ride, snare as quarter notes, totaling four beats. Measure two: bass drum quarter note, bass drum quarter note, quarter rest, quarter rest, totaling four beats. Measure three: one whole note on the bottom space, totaling four beats. Measure four: four quarter rests, totaling four beats. All four measures total four beats in 4/4.

Reason: Quarter notes are one beat, quarter rests are one beat, and a whole note is four beats. Four quarter rests fill an otherwise empty measure to four beats. The check ensures each measure matches the time signature.

Check: Count beats per measure: measure one 1+1+1+1=4; measure two 1+1+1+1=4; measure three 4; measure four 1+1+1+1=4. Confirm bar lines touch top and bottom lines and the percussion clef appears at the start.

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Four measures / four quarters on the middle line in measure 1



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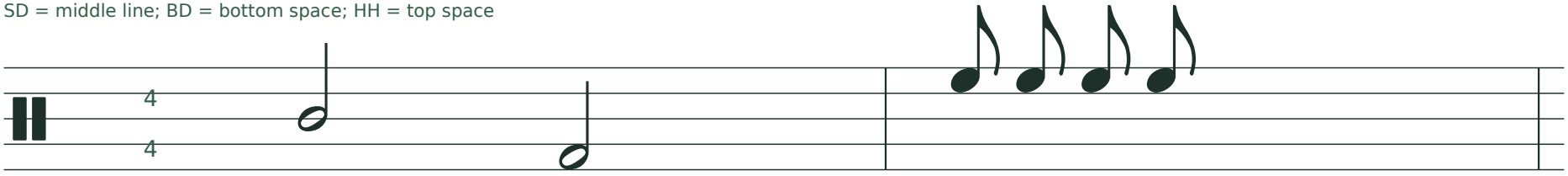
HH top space; SD middle line; BD bottom space



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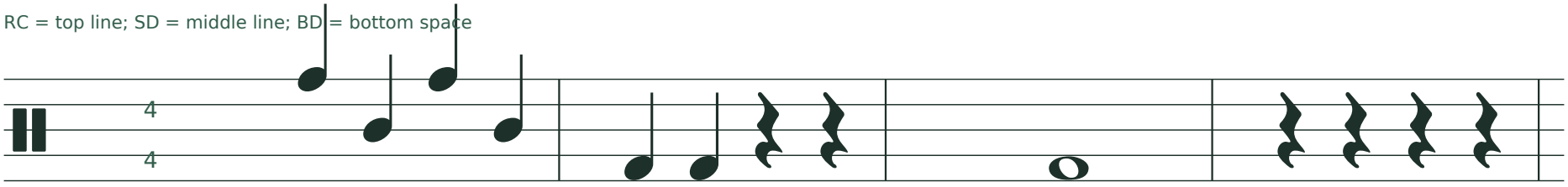
Given two measures / second has only two quarter-duration units

SD = middle line; BD = bottom space; HH = top space



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Four 4/4 measures / complete source rhythm



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Source rubric / reflection

- [ ] Percussion clef is present at the start of the staff line.
- [ ] Bar lines are vertical and touch both top and bottom staff lines.
- [ ] Measures are evenly spaced and contain the correct beat count for the chosen time signature.
- [ ] Note heads sit on lines or spaces according to the legend.
- [ ] Stem direction is consistent within each voice.
- [ ] Legend clearly maps instruments to lines or spaces.
- [ ] Valid alternative conventions are accepted if the legend explains them.

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