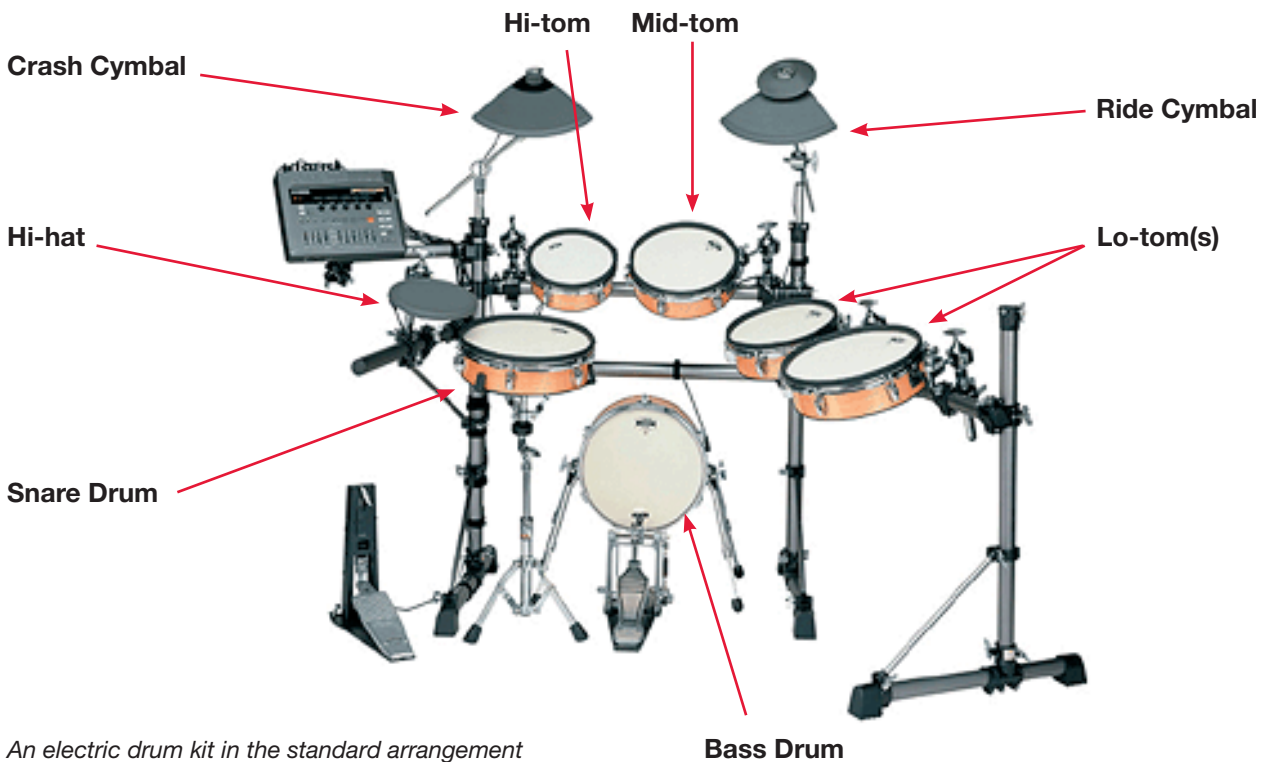


# Anatomy of the Drum Kit



An acoustic drum kit in the standard arrangement



An electric drum kit in the standard arrangement

## The Drum Kit Guide (Part 1)

Hi-hat



## The Hi-hat

The **hi-hat** is made up of two cymbals, with one on top of the other. They both sit together on a stand which can be operated by a foot pedal. You can play the hi-hats by striking them with a stick, normally with the foot depressed and the cymbals close together. They are also played by closing them together with the foot, or by striking and opening at the same time (used a lot for **Disco/House Grooves**).



Snare drum

## The Snare Drum

The **snare drum** has a number of strands of metal wire across the **bottom head**, which resonate against the bottom head (drum skin) when the drum is struck. The strand of wires is called a **snare** hence the name of the drum.

The snare drum can be played by striking the drum's top skin, or by catching the **rim** at the same time, called a **rim-shot**. Furthermore, you can lay the stick across the drum and chop down on the rim's edge. This latter technique is often called **cross stick**, or **stick across**.



Bass drum

## The Bass Drum

The deepest drum in the kit, the **bass drum**, lies on the floor and is operated exclusively by a foot pedal.

The bass, snare and hi-hat work together in rock and pop music at the centre of grooves and the control of these three voices is a large part of developing **three way co-ordination**.

## The Drum Kit Guide (Part 2)

Hi-Tom



## Hi-Tom

**Standard size 10" x 8"**

The hi-tom, is a drum with skins on both sides of the drum. You play the top head, known as the 'batter head'.

The sound from a tom is generally rounded as the shape of the drum is such that the two skins resonate together to produce the same tone. Tuning is very important. In the majority of instances the bottom head should be the same tension as the top head. You can vary the tensions between skins, but this will effect the decay of the sound, after the drum has been struck. If the bottom head is looser the sound will drop. If tighter it will rise.

Mid-Tom



## Mid-Tom

**Standard Size 12" x 10"**

The concept of the mid-tom is the same as the hi-tom, except that it is usually slightly bigger and as such has a deeper sound.

The hi-tom and mid-toms are often referred to as 'rack toms', as they sit either on or over the bass drum using a rack stand.

Floor Tom



## Floor Tom

**Standard Size 14"x14"/16"x16"**

The floor tom is the lowest pitched tom. It is called a floor tom as it often comes with legs that sit the tom on the floor.

More modern versions of the floor tom now actually hang the tom from a stand and are called either 'hanging' or 'lo-toms'. They are all the same though in essence.