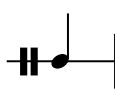


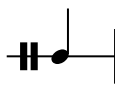
# Western Notation Key

The study of Arabic Tabl involves:

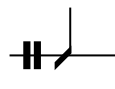
- 1) mastering the basic strokes listed below, then combining these sounds into more intricate variations
- 2) learning about the history of the music, how the various rhythms were developed, and how they fit into the music
- 3) how to interpret the traditional Arabic notation. (At the top of every rhythm there will be an example of the traditional Arabic notation, but for now we will just focus on the western notation.)

 **Dum.** Produced by striking the drum with your fingers and the palm of your right hand to achieve a low tone. Lift your hand off the head after striking the drum so the tone does not become muffled. If you accidentally produce a high pitch you may need to move your fingers closer to the center of the drum.


R

 **Ma.** Same tone as a Dum except it is played with the left hand hanging over the top of the drum. This stroke is only used in a few patterns.

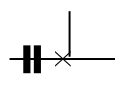
L

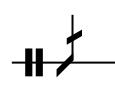
 **Tek.** Produced by striking the drum close to the rim with the finger tips of your right hand to achieve a high pitch. Lift your hand after striking the drum so the tone does not become muffled.

R

 **Ka.** Produced by your left hand over the top of the drum, striking it with your pinky and ring finger at the same time. The tone should sound the same as the Tek.

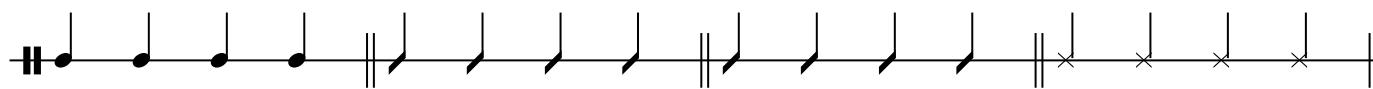
L

 **Slap.** The hand drum equivalent of a rim shot, it is produced by whip cracking the flats of the tips of your fingers against the head. The Slap is almost always played with the right hand.

 **Finger roll.** The finger roll is produced by striking the fingers of one hand in succession against the edge of the drum. Start with the pinky then the ring, middle, and index finger. This is played quickly but you should practice it slowly at first to get the right effect. The finger roll is usually played by the left hand. The right hand can play it too but it is rare and not included in this book.

## Basic Pitches

Practice each of these tones separately. Go Slowly at first concentrating on form and sound, not speed.




A musical staff with a double bar line at the beginning and end. It is divided into four groups of four notes each by double bar lines. The first group consists of four quarter notes, all marked with a vertical line and a dot below it, labeled 'R'. The second group consists of four eighth notes, all marked with a vertical line and a diagonal slash below it, labeled 'R'. The third group consists of four eighth notes, all marked with a vertical line and a diagonal slash below it, labeled 'L'. The fourth group consists of four quarter notes, all marked with a vertical line and an 'x' below it, labeled 'R'.

R R R R R R R R L L L L R R R R

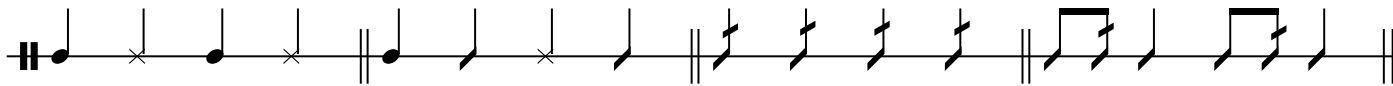
## Basic Combinations

When practicing these exercises, try to produce all of the different sounds at the same volume.



A musical staff with a double bar line at the beginning and end. It is divided into four groups of four notes each by double bar lines. The first group consists of four eighth notes, all marked with a vertical line and a diagonal slash below it, labeled 'R'. The second group consists of four quarter notes, all marked with a vertical line and a dot below it, labeled 'L'. The third group consists of four eighth notes, all marked with a vertical line and a diagonal slash below it, labeled 'R'. The fourth group consists of four quarter notes, all marked with a vertical line and an 'x' below it, labeled 'L'.

R L R L R L R L R L R L R L



A musical staff with a double bar line at the beginning and end. It is divided into four groups of four notes each by double bar lines. The first group consists of four quarter notes, all marked with a vertical line and a dot below it, labeled 'R'. The second group consists of four eighth notes, all marked with a vertical line and a diagonal slash below it, labeled 'L'. The third group consists of four eighth notes, all marked with a vertical line and a diagonal slash below it, labeled 'L'. The fourth group consists of four quarter notes, all marked with a vertical line and a diagonal slash below it, labeled 'R'.

R R R R R L R L L L L L R L R R L R