

Tied Notes

When a note is tied to another the original note is extended for the value of the note it's tied to. For example if a quarter note (worth one beat) is tied to another quarter, it is now worth two beats. However as I have stated earlier a drum cannot hold a note for a specific duration (rolls exempted), so the tied note rule for drums is: The first note to the right of a tie is treated as a rest.



To a non-drummer each of the two bars above would be played differently. The note in the first bar would be held for two beats, while in the second bar the note would be stopped by beat 2. The first bar could also be written as a half note, so on the snare the following three bars are played the same.



Only the "first" note to the right of a tie is treated as a rest. Hence:



Ties are often used to enable beats to cross between beats 2 and 3. So instead of writing a half note on beat 2, tied quarter notes are used.



They can also be used to extend notes over bar lines.

