

DEAN GILES MUSIC EDUCATION

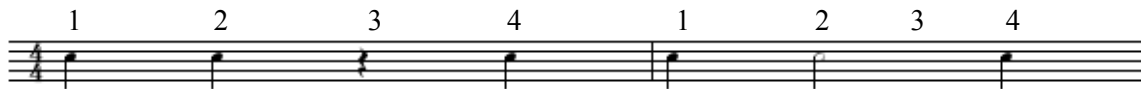
Study Sheet 1a - Note Length



I often get a question from students regarding the reason for writing the, seemingly, same rhythm in so many different ways. The answer is in the note length or how long the note lasts, when does it start / when does it end.

For drummers, in general, we strike the note where it sits in the measure and don't need to be concerned with how long the note lasts. This all changes when we study articulation of notes and how to play long and short notes on the drum set. But for now let's only consider where the note starts.

Looking at the following example, if we only consider when the note starts, these rhythms are the same.



Now let's look at when the note starts and when it *ends*.



Notice in the 2nd measure how the half note played on count "2" lasts *through* count "3" all the way to count "4". We have omitted the rest on count "3" because there is no silence, or rest. The sound of the note continues through count "3" to count "4".

So, this is why the, seemingly, same rhythm can be written many different ways.

The real answer is that they are not the same at all!

I hope the helps you to better understand rhythms, how they are written and how they are played.

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