

INTRO TO BUILD-FILLS

BUILD-FILLS

A **build-fill** is a basic, yet powerful, drum fill which builds into the next section usually with a **crescendo** or by gradually getting louder. You will see the symbol for *crescendo* throughout this lesson.

Notation Key

The drum notation key indicates which drums and cymbals to use.

The diagram shows a five-line staff with various drum notation symbols. Above the staff, symbols are labeled: Hi Hat (x on a line), Crash (x on a line), Ride (x on a line), Snare (dot on a line), Kick (dot on a line), and Toms (bracketed group of three dots on lines). Below the staff, symbols are labeled: Cross-Stick (x on a space), Hi Hat with Foot (x on a space), High (dot on a line), Middle (dot on a line), and Low (dot on a line).

The build technique is used in the hit song *Highway to Hell*—AC/DC (1979). Play the main beat below 3 times, play the fill into the chorus, and then play the chorus main beat.



Highway to Hell

AC/DC 1979

The build-fill is used in “Highway to Hell” to lead into the chorus.

♩ = 117

Verse Main Beat

Fill to Chorus

Chorus Main Beat