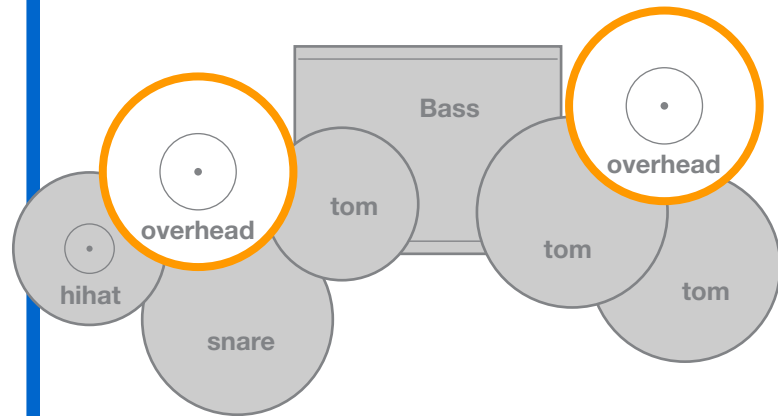
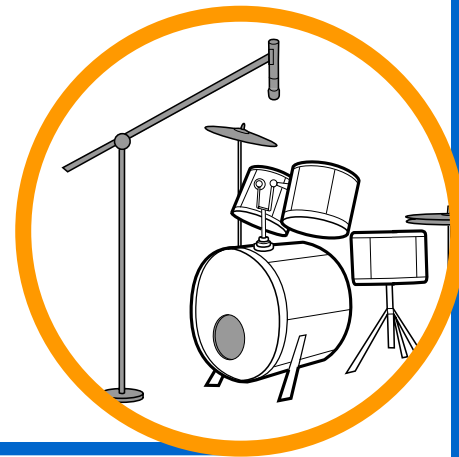


In most professional PA systems, each drum has its own mic. This allows the sound engineer to isolate and control the volume and sound of each drum and the cymbals at the mixer. If you have enough mics to do this, here are some suggestions on how to place them:

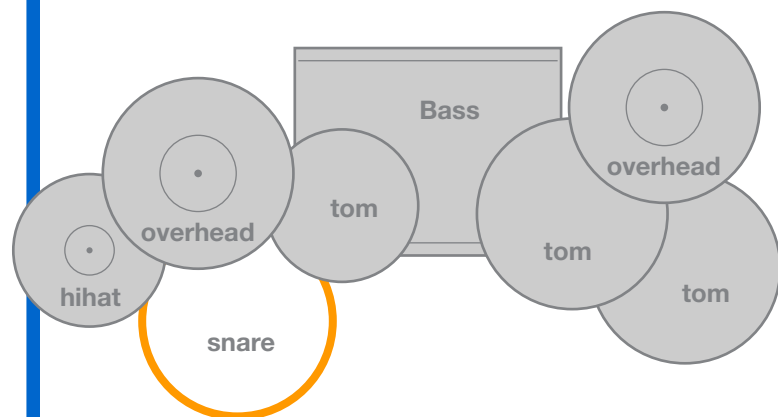
Overhead cymbals



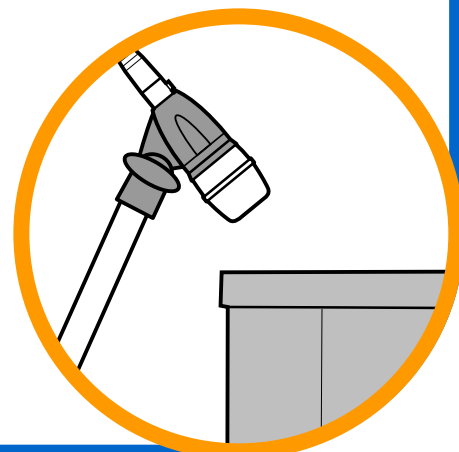
Place one mic over the center of the drum kit, about 1 ft. above the drummer's head. This gives a natural sound very, much the way the drummer hears himself.



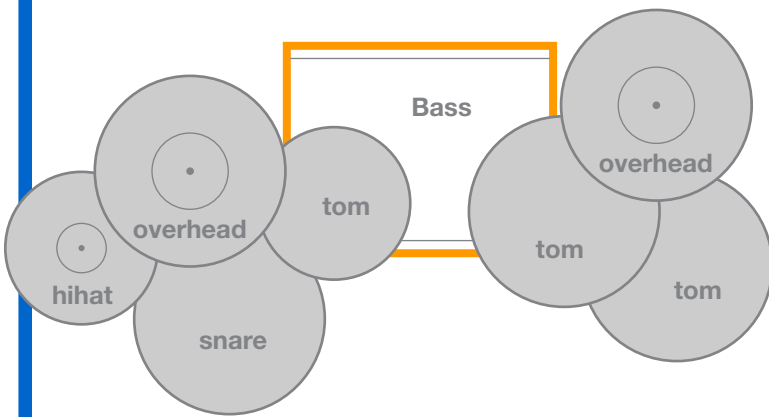
Snare drum



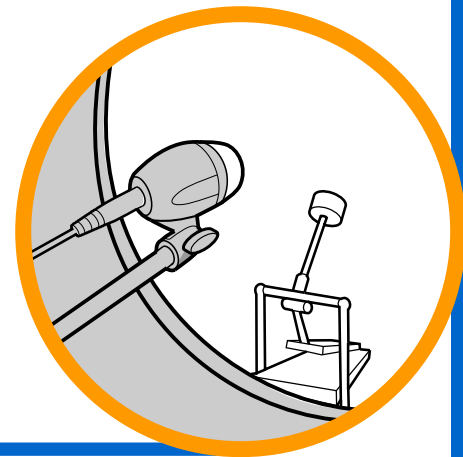
Place the mic just over the rim at the edge of the drum, aiming at the drum head. To get a tighter sound, an old trick is to have the drummer duct-tape a small folded towel or napkin down on the edge of the drum head.



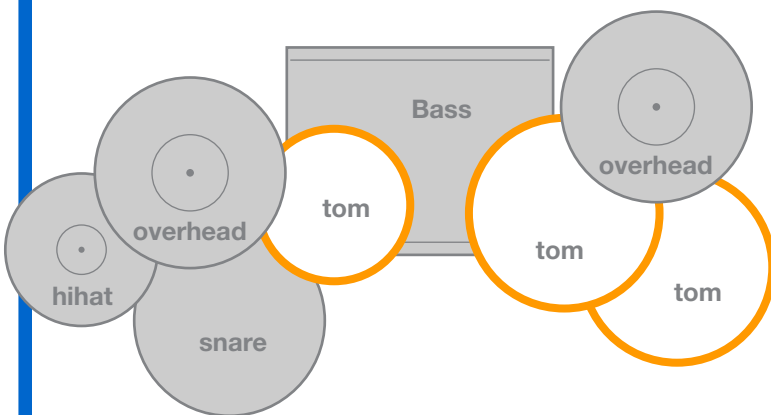
Bass drum



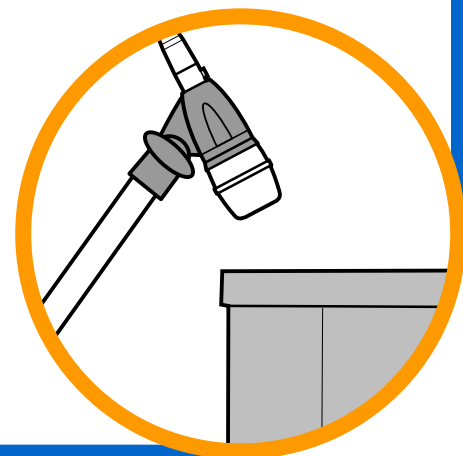
If there is a hole in the front head (or no front head) place the mic inside the drum a few inches from the beater head, pointed either directly at the kick pedal or slightly off-center to pick up more overtones. Putting a blanket or a pillow on the bottom of the drum against the beater head will make the drum sound tighter coming through the PA. This provides a good "rock" kick drum sound. If there is no hole in the front head, place the mic as close to the head as possible without touching it. This technique is more common in jazz, less common in rock.



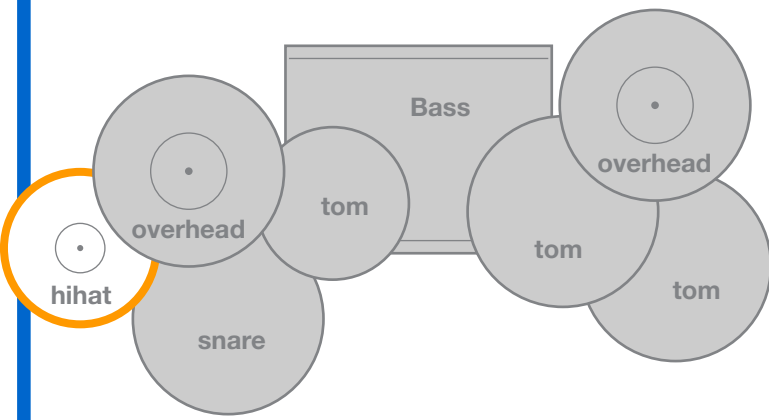
Tom-toms



If you have enough mics, try miking each drum just over the rim, pointed at the drum head. Or, try removing the bottom drum head and placing individual mics inside the drum itself (better isolation and control at the mixer). If you have a limited number of mics, you can get away with placing one mic between every two toms, close to the top heads.



Hi-hat



If you can spare a mic just for the hi-hat, aim it straight down towards the edge of the cymbals on the side away from the drummer. If not, slightly angle the snare mic towards the hi-hat. Remember to place the mic or adjust the cymbal height so that the puff of air from the closing hi-hat does not blow into the mic.

