Jamestown Drumline Cymbal Notation

Orchestra Crash - The most common of the crashes, this technique is made by moving the right and left hand in opposite vertical directions after impact. For example: After the impact, bring the right hand up and the left hand down. The original impact should occur about shoulder or chest level with cymbals in the vertical position (|| like this). All cymbal crashes, with the exception of the crash choke, should be let to ring until the next note is played. These crash notations are what the composers suggest, meaning other crash techniques can be interchanged.

Flat Crash - Begin with the cymbals at waist level at the horizontal position (= like this). The left or bottom hand should remain stationary. Cock the right hand back towards the shoulder in preparation for the impact. Slam the right hand down to meet the left, slightly overshooting the edge in order to not produce a vacuum or air pocket. After the impact, follow through by fully extending the right arm forward, letting both cymbals ring.

Port Crash - This is a variation of the orchestra crash (described above). It follows the same attributes with the exception of the impact position, which is at eye level. This technique often begins with the hand either in the V or upsidedow V (like this ^) position. This crash is mainly used for big impact points with a more aggressive attack and more exaggerated follow through.

Crash-Choke - The basic concept of a crash choke is to perform a crash (as described above) and then choke the cymbals by pressing them against the body in order to stop the ring. Depending on the original crash technique will determine how and where the cymbals are choked. The choke should occur instantly after the crash. No matter the duration of the note (1/4, 8th or 16th) the choke should happen on the next 16th note. For example if you executed this technique on beat 1, the choke would occur on the E (1, **E**, & a) of the beat same beat.

Hi- Hat - Also referred to as the choke or hinge choke, this technique is similar to the closing of a drum set hi-hat. The cymbals should start at the horizontal position, (= like this or this //) about waist level. The bottom hand, usually the left, remains stationary as the front of the top cymbal is lifted vertically. The back of the top cymbal should remain in contact with the back of the bottom cymbal and in contact with the players mid section. Slap the top cymbal down and immediately follow through by bringing it back up. Hi-hats are usually played sequentially, meaning a group of more than 1 so, the follow through is also used as the prep for the next.











Crunch - Slam or crush as it is also referred to as this technique commonly starts out in the horizontal position (= like this or this //). Preparation includes raising the right or top hand up about 3 inches from the left or bottom hand. Keeping the cymbals aligned slam the top cymbal onto the bottom. The cymbals should remain pressed together allowing for a crisp staccato impact and no follow through or ring.

Sizzle - Sometimes called slide, this is a difficult one to explain without getting too technical. Start off in the horizontal position (= like this or this //) about waist level. Bring the right hand or top hand back towards the shoulder, as a preparatory motion. Bring the top hand forward sliding it against the stationary bottom hand. Relax the top or right hand so the sizzle sound is sustained. If the sizzle notation is not tied to a suck (explained below) it should be allowed to ring until it has fizzled out or until the next note needs to be played.

Sizzle-Suck - The basis of this method is to simply apply the sizzle and then the hi-hat "suck" technique. The sound it produces should be reminiscent of the opening and closing of a drum set hi-hat.

Tap - Begin by placing the hands in the ^ (upside down V) position. Tap the inside edge of the right cymbal on the tip of the left cymbal. This technique is usually executed at eye level.

Tap-Choke - Performed the same as a tap, simply apply a choke by pressing the cymbals against the body after the tap. Duration before the choke follows the same concept as the crash-choke. No matter the duration of the note (1/4, 8th or 16th) the choke should happen on the next 16th note. For example if you executed this technique on beat 1, the choke would occur on the E (1, **E**, & a) of the beat.

Scrape - Begin by placing the left hand cymbal in a vertical position. Place right cymbal at edge of bell inside left cymbal at a 45 degree angle. Press right cymbal into left as you lift right cymbal scraping right cymbal edge against left cymbal inner side. This technique is usually executed at eye level.











