

Rock Combo Number System: Written Instructions/Cues

Written Directions should usually be placed inside square [] brackets

These instructions can convey information about the tune such as the feel or groove, cues, instrumentation, other players parts, stylistic concerns, or pretty much anything else to make the chart and what needs to be played more clear.

Some Common Instructions:

Info for drummers - [hh], [Rc], [Cr], [Cb] or [cow], etc, these may be combined with stylistic ideas; [swing on Rc], [Funky Cb], [Str8 hh], [loose hh 1/2x], [TT Grv], etc.

Intro info - [Vox], vocals only, [Gt], or [Guit], [Dr] or [Drums], [Bs] or [Bass], etc.

Arrangement Ideas - [Distrtn 2nd x], [Dr 1st x only], [Bs Contns], [No Vx 2nd x], etc

Performance Cues - [Watch Vx Q], [Dr count in], [Vamp till cue], [Don't Rush], etc

Some other ideas could include:

modulation info, tempo changes, metric modulation, cut off instructions, lyric cues, dynamics (though normal dynamic markings may still be used below the numbers), "special effect" sounds like pick scrapes, cymbal swells, screams, claps, rim-clicks, synth sounds, or anything else that may occur in a tune.

REMEMBER:

There is no universally accepted set of symbols for these number systems, you will see slight variations as well as hand written charts and hybrids of other notations systems. Use your best judgment and don't be afraid to mark up a chart or even rewrite it to make it more clear.