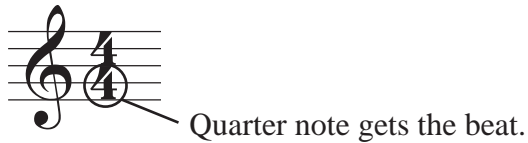


Rhythm Part II - The Dot and 3/4 Time

(We are going to continue to speak as though we are in 4/4, 3/4, or any other signature with a 4 on the bottom. These are the meters in which the quarter note gets one beat.)



One Dot = Increase by 50%


Any kind of note or rest can be appended with a dot. This increases the rhythmic value of the note by 50%.

 1 beat + 50% = 1 1/2 beats

 1/2 beat + 50% = 3/4 beat

 2 beats + 50% = 3 beats

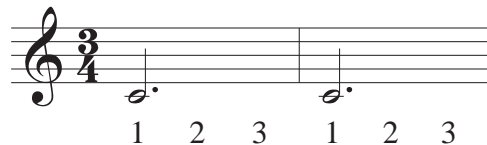
 1/4 beat + 50% = 3/8 beat

 4 beats + 50% = 6 beats

In 4/4 the dot is frequently used to make the “heartbeat rhythm.”




And in 3/4 time we'll use dotted half notes to fill up the measures.





The Double Dot

But that's not all! You can actually add another dot which increases the note by an additional 25% (or 50% of the 50%). Theoretically there is no limit to the number of dots you could add in this way, though the rhythmic value of such creations would quickly become very difficult to figure out.

 1 beat + 50% + 25% = 1 3/4 beats

 1/2 beat + 50% + 25% = 7/8 beat

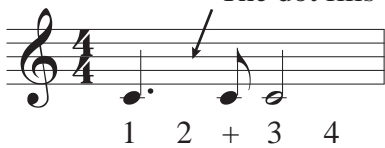
 2 beats + 50% + 25% = 3 1/2 beats

 1/4 beat + 50% + 25% = 13/16 beat

 4 beats + 50% + 25% = 7 beats


The double dot is often used to take the heartbeat rhythm and exaggerate it, so that the pickup note is even shorter.

The dot fills up the space until the short note.

single 

1 2 + 3 4

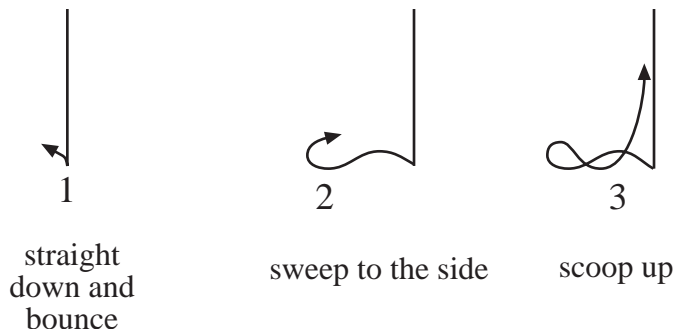
More space, quicker short note.

double 

1 2 e + a 3 4

Triple Meter

Triple meter, or 3/4, is pretty simple. Instead of counting four beats per measure, we count three (as in a waltz.) If you want to conduct in 3/4, you simply edit out one beat from the pattern. This makes a sort of triangle shape.

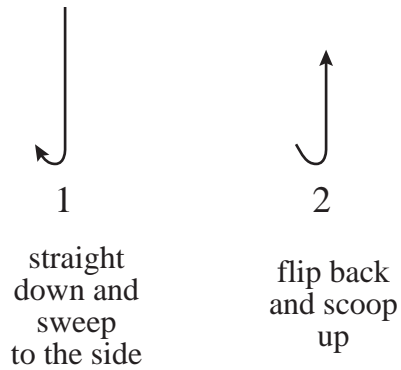


Counting out measures in three is also straightforward.

A musical staff in 3/4 time with a treble clef. The notes are: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. Below the notes are the counting numbers: 1, 2, 3, +, 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, +, 3, 1, 2, 3.

Duple Meter

Duple meter, or 2/4, is sort of an abbreviated 4/4. We conduct it in a J shape.



...and we count it how you might expect.

A musical staff in 2/4 time with a treble clef. The notes are: quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter, quarter. Below the notes are the counting numbers: 1, 2, +, 1, 2, 1, +, 2, 1, 2.