

What We Know Already

We have learned how to count dotted quarter notes followed by eighth notes during the past quarter. Up until then we have always played notes with the tap our foot when our toes hit the ground, or the *downbeat*. The rhythm below shows that the second note is played when our toe is up, or the *offbeat*. We also call this the “and” of the beat in regards to the counts below the music.

The dotted quarter note takes up 1 ½ beats or three eighth note pulses. You can see that the counts underneath the dotted quarter note force us to tap down twice while we play it. The eighth note that follows is played when our foot comes up and the last two notes are obviously played on the last two taps of the measure.

Write in the counts and arrows (down & up) for the following exercises. Make sure to tie together counts over one beat by drawing a line underneath them.

1.

2.

3.

## Flipping It Around

Now here's a twist ... let's look at the same rhythm with the dotted quarter note and eighth note reversed. It might sound easy now that you've mastered the previous concept, but you might find that it causes a twist in counting. Write the counts below the example and place down and up arrows above it.

4  
4

— — — —

If you did this correctly you should see that the eighth note starts the measure on beat one, with your foot tap down. Since it only lasts for  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a beat, it forces you to start the dotted quarter note on the “+” of the beat, when your foot tap is up. Since the dotted quarter note takes up three eighth note pulses we are back with our foot tap down for the last two notes. Look carefully now ... how many times does your foot tap *down* on the dotted quarter note. The answer is 1 ... that should seem strange considering the previous page showed 2. The difference is that the dotted quarter note started on the downbeat before, and this pattern makes it start on the offbeat. This pattern is far less common than the one above, but it is important to be able to train your eyes to recognize it before it takes you by surprise.

Circle the dotted quarter notes in the following exercises that start on the offbeat.

1.

2.

3.

## Counting Dotted Quarter Notes (Part 2)

Place the following items in the exercises below.

1. Write the counts below each exercise
2. Tie together any counts that last more than one beat by underlining them
3. Place the appropriate arrow, down or up, above each note. Notes lasting more than one beat must have more than one arrow.

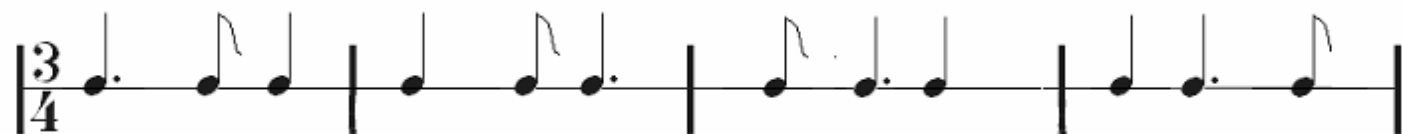
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

