

Lesson 20

8th Rest + 8th Note

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Course	Read & Play Music
Book 3	Read and Play Tunes with Fascinating Rhythms
Part 2	8th Notes
Lesson 20	8th Rest + 8th Note

CONTENTS

Music Theory

Example of 8th rest + 8th note

Practical

Exercise 1: Several 8th note + 8th rests

Chat with David:

Your first real major step in mastering difficult timing

Exercise 2: Left hand $\frac{3}{4}$

Exercise 3: Two measures, left hand

Exercise 4: Two different measures, left hand

Exercise 5: Right hand, $\frac{3}{4}$

Exercise 6: Different pitches, pickup measure

Exercise 7: Left hand, pickup measure

Exercise 8: Left hand, pickup measure

Tune 1: A song from Germany

Lascia ch'io pianga

(Italian for 'Let me weep')

Tune 2: The British National Anthem

God Save the Queen

(In America: My Country 'Tis of Thee)

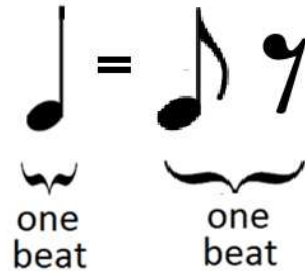


LESSON 20: 8TH REST + 8TH NOTE

MUSIC THEORY

BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

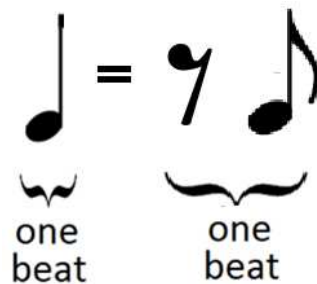
In the last lesson, we saw how a quarter note can be divided into an 8th note followed by an 8th rest.



8th note + 8th rest.

We got familiar with playing an 8th note + 8th rest and discovered the effect it creates in music. I mentioned that to my ears the 8th note + 8th rest creates a jaunty, snappy effect.

Now we're going to switch them around, putting the rest before the note, and discover what effect that creates.



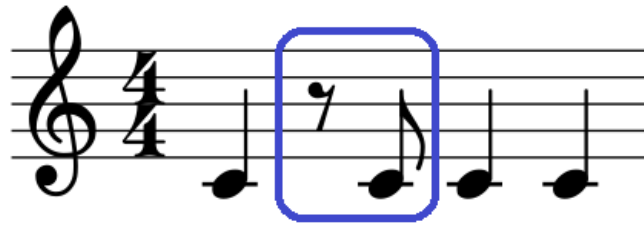
8th rest + 8th note.

I call this rhythm '8th rest + 8th note'.

2

Example of 8th rest + 8th note

Here is a measure that includes an 8th rest + 8th note:



8th rest + 8th note

PRACTICAL

BUILD YOUR SKILL

You may find that this rhythm (8th rest + 8th note) is a bit trickier to count and to play than the previous one (8th note + 8th rest). Apply the Learning Procedure and it will all come out right. (See Lesson 13)

Exercise 1:

Several 8th note + 8th rests

Here is the music for this exercise:



Let's see which of the 4 steps of the Learning Procedure are needed:

1. **Step 1:** Practise-in-Sections. Yes, the music is short. But you may find each measure so tricky that it is worth tackling on its own. Experiment.
2. **Step 2:** Know-Before-You-Go. There is only one pitch.
3. **Step 3:** Break-the-Beat.
 - a. Set metronome to 50 BPM to tick the beat:

metronome speed
50 BPM

ticks: ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

the beats: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

- Play the music, making the 8th notes as accurate as you can.
- If you find this pretty difficult, well, *maybe that's because it is difficult!* That's why I've given you the Learning Procedure, and in particular this step of the procedure, Break-the-Beat. I've given it to you to help you master these tricky rhythms.

- b. Set metronome to 100 BPM to tick the half beats: is the spacing of the arrows confusing? Better to start with unannotated music and ask the student to point to the beats and half beats first?

metronome speed
100 BPM

ticks: ↑↑↑ ↑ ↑↑↑ ↑ ↑↑↑ ↑ ↑↑↑ ↑

the beats: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

- Play the music, repeating as needed until you're playing the 8th notes exactly with the ticks.

c. Set metronome back to 50 BPM to tick the beat:

metronome speed
50 BPM

ticks: ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

the beats: 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4

- Play the music, repeating as needed until your 8th notes are as accurate as they were when the metronome was ticking the half beats.
- If necessary, you can go back and forth with the metronome ticking the beats and then ticking the half beats, until your playing sounds the same either way.

4. Step 4: Speed-Up-Slowly.

- Choose your **starting speed**: a speed at which you can play the music accurately.
- Gradually increase** the metronome speed, being sure to play accurately at each speed before you move up.

- c. When you simply cannot play accurately at a speed no matter what you do, turn the speed down several notches and play the music accurately. That is your **top speed** for now.

Chat with David

Your first really major step in mastering difficult timing

If I were to identify one exact point where you step confidently out of the baby class and start climbing the ladder leading to professional competence, this is it.

The exercise you just did is so demanding that, well, I am impressed with you. I take my hat off and salute you.

And yet, there are greater challenges, and rewards, up ahead. Things are just beginning to heat up. ■

Exercise 2:

Left hand, 3/4

Here is the music for this exercise:



Apply the Learning Procedure (only the steps you need). (See Lesson 13)

Step 1: Practise-in-Sections? **I don't think that's needed, but apply it if you find it useful.**

Step 2: Know-Before-You-Go? **NO.** It's only one pitch.

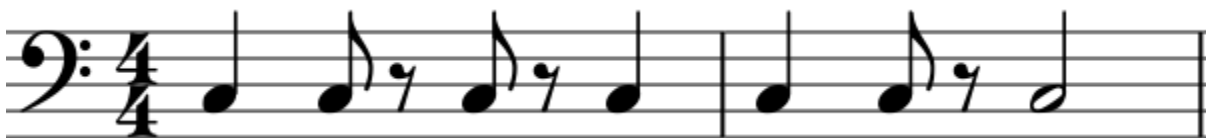
Step 3: Break-the-Beat? **YES.** The whole point of this exercise is to learn to play these challenging subdivisions accurately. Break-the-Beat helps you achieve that.

Step 4: Speed-Up-Slowly? **YES.** Learn to play the 8th notes accurately at speed.

Exercise 3:

Two measures, left hand

Apply the Learning Procedure. (See Lesson 13)



Exercise 4:

Two different measures, left hand

Apply the Learning Procedure. (See Lesson 13)



Exercise 5:

Right hand, 3/4

Apply the Learning Procedure. (See Lesson 13)



Exercise 6:

Different pitches, pickup measure

Apply the Learning Procedure. (See Lesson 13)

20th century classical music – by composers such as Stravinsky, Bernstein, Bartok - complex rhythms are essential to the character of the music. To play these styles, you need the skills you are now building.

So, soldier on! Pay close attention to your accuracy, making sure the notes you play exactly match the metronome ticks. I realise this is some serious work, but it's worth it. You are turning yourself into an expert musician.

Apply the Learning Procedure. (See Lesson 13)



Tune 1:

A song from Germany

This is a song by George Handel (German-British composer of 300 years ago).

Apply the Learning Procedure. (See Lesson 13)

Lascia ch'io pianga
(Italian for 'Let me weep')



I find the 8th rest + 8th note at the end of measure 1 gives a sense of moving the tune forward to the start of the next note. How does it sound to you?

Tune 2:

The British National Anthem

Apply the Learning Procedure. (See Lesson 13)

God Save the Queen
(In America: My Country 'Tis of Thee)

