

Rhythm Flash Cards

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Directions for use:

- Print Several (4 or 5) copies of the the Flash Card Sheet
- Cut them out and shuffle them (you may find it useful to start with only a couple of rhythms, adding others as you get more comfortable)
- Set your Metronome to about 80 BPM. **Sing** the rhythms on the cards with a quarter note pulse (two beats per card), turning through the cards so the rhythm stays continuous.
- As you get more comfortable with the rhythms increase the speed of the metronome, also try singing the rhythms with the half note as the pulse (one beat per card)

Why These Rhythms?

In the Big Band Era it became essential to develop a system of writing and reading music that would allow musicians to be able to create performance quality music on the first read through. Composers and Copyists discovered that musicians could read two beat rhythmic cells faster and more accurately than four beat cells. As a result these 8 rhythms became the basic rhythmic elements of modern notation.

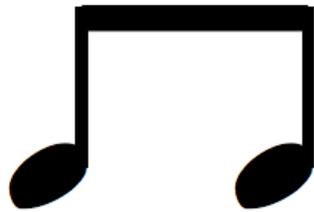
Of course other rhythms are possible, but the vast majority of rhythms you will encounter will be one of these. Most of those that are not will be very closely related to one of these cards. Learn them so well that you can flip through the cards mindlessly with complete accuracy and you will see dramatic improvements in your ability to read music.



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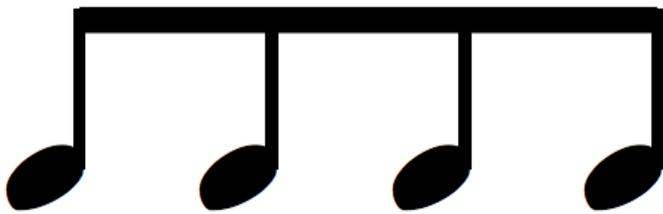
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