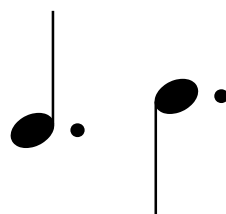


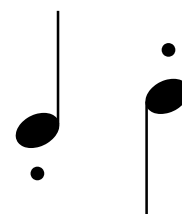
Ties and Dotted Rhythms

In rhythm, the dot is a way of lengthening a note by extending its rhythm value. Simply put, a dot makes a note longer by half. Any note value can be lengthened in this way. For now, we'll look at the dotted half, dotted quarter, and dotted eighth notes.

Dotted notes should not be confused with *staccato*, which is a type of articulation calling for short, disconnected notes. With dotted notes, the dot is to the side of the note, not above or below.



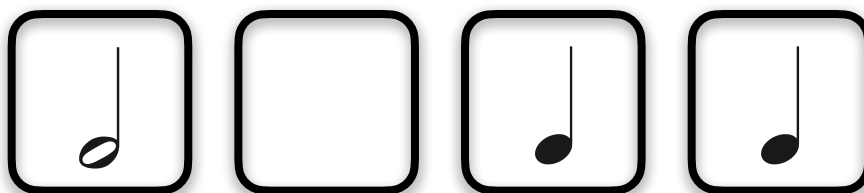
Dotted Notes



Staccato Notes

Dotted Half Notes

A normal half note is held for two beats. Clap this rhythm while saying the syllables aloud:



HALF

NOTE

TA

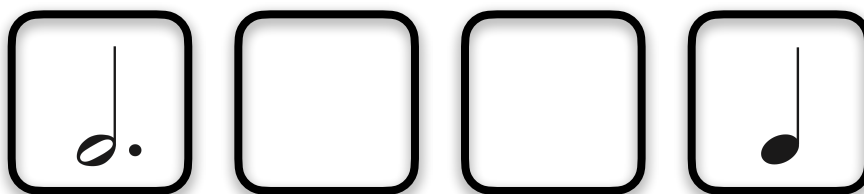
TA

We can add a beat to this half note's duration by *tying* the half note to the quarter note in the third beat. The tie adds the two notes together; play the half note and simply hold it through the quarter note.



TIE

Another way to get the same rhythm is to put a *dot* on the half note. The dotted half note is really a half note tied to a quarter: a half note made longer by half its value. For dotted half notes, use the rhythm syllables "half—note—dot."



HALF

NOTE

DOT

TA

Dotted Quarter Notes

A normal quarter note lasts for one beat.
Clap this rhythm while saying the syllables aloud:

Tie the quarter note in the first beat box to the first eighth note in the next box. This makes the quarter note half again as long as before. When clapping, keep your hands together on the first TA, then draw them apart when you say the first “TI.” Clap the second “TI” and “TA” as you normally would.

A dotted quarter note is just a quarter tied to an eighth. The tied eighth note became “absorbed” into the dotted quarter, and the remaining eighth note is left as a single flagged eighth. Now say “dot” when you draw your hands apart.



TI—ti-ka



TIM—ka
Dotted 8th + 16th

Dotted Eighth Notes

Start with an eighth and two sixteenths, the “TI—ti-ka” rhythm.
Clap and say this rhythm four times.

Now tie the eighth note to the first sixteenth note. The combined value is now half again as long as the original eighth note.

This is the same thing as a dotted eighth note. The tied sixteenth note has been absorbed into the dotted eighth, and we’re left with one remaining sixteenth note. Notice how the dotted eighth and sixteenth notes can still be beamed together, but the sixteenth retains its second beam. When clapping this rhythm, say the syllables “TIM—ka.”