

Lesson No. 5: Eighth notes

So far we have but played quarter notes and rests. We mark quarter beats with our foot, thus every quarter note was played with a simultaneous tap of the foot. On a quarter rest the foot tapped without playing a note.

In this lesson we will get acquainted with a new note value: the eighth note. Two eighth notes fill a quarter beat. In the musical sheet this is illustrated as follows:

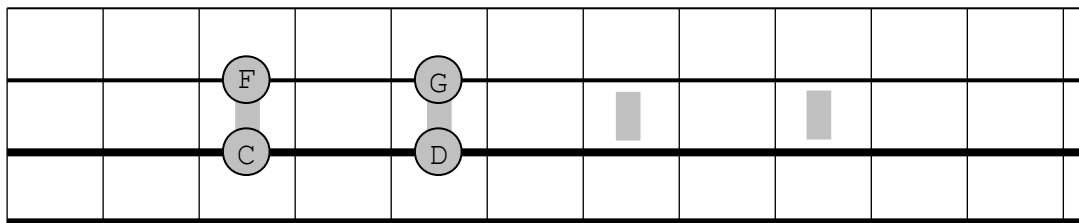


The first eighth note is played simultaneously with the tap of the foot. The second eighth note is played before the foot taps again, i.e. in the time interval between two taps.

Listen also to the audio files while reading the musical sheet to get acquainted with the new rhythm. As always, the taps of the foot are marked by the clicks of the metronome.

Exercises

All exercises only use the following notes which you already know from previous lessons where we played them in the eighth position. Now we play the same notes in the third position. This is possible because on the bass guitar the same note can be played on different frets. Look up the notes below in the note finder to make sure that you understand properly what I am writing about.



When looking at the chord symbols below you will realize that some of the chords are accompanied by a lower case „m“. It means „minor“ and shouldn't bother you right now! Minor chords will not be dealt with until in lesson 17.

a)

The image shows a musical score for bass clef, consisting of eight staves. Each staff begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. Above each staff are four chord labels: Dm, Dm, F, and C. The notes on the staves are as follows:

- Staff 1: Dm (Bb, F), Dm (Bb, F), F (C, F), C (C, G)
- Staff 2: F (C, F), Dm (Bb, F), Gm (Bb, F), C (C, G)
- Staff 3: Dm (Bb, F), Dm (Bb, F), F (C, F), C (C, G)
- Staff 4: F (C, F), Dm (Bb, F), Gm (Bb, F), C (C, G)
- Staff 5: Dm (Bb, F), Dm (Bb, F), F (C, F), C (C, G)
- Staff 6: F (C, F), Dm (Bb, F), G (C, G), C (C, G)
- Staff 7: Dm (Bb, F), Dm (Bb, F), F (C, F), C (C, G)
- Staff 8: F (C, F), Dm (Bb, F), G (C, G), C (C, G)

b)

The image shows a musical score for bass clef, consisting of seven systems of music. Each system contains a single line of music with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is written in a 4/4 time signature. Above each system, there are four chord symbols: Dm, Dm, F, and C. The first system has a melody starting with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter rest, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F2. The second system starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. The third system starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. The fourth system starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. The fifth system starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. The sixth system starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. The seventh system starts with a quarter note G2, followed by a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, and a quarter note D2. Each system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.