



Lesson Eighteen

Gigajam Bass School Lesson 18 IBS IDN

Reading-Introducing Dotted Notes

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce and understand the musical appearance and purpose of **Dots**.
- Understand the effect of dots on the note value of quarter notes and quarter note rests.
- Apply our understanding of dots to Bass rhythm patterns using **dotted quarter notes** and **dotted quarter note rests**.

Dots and Dotted Notes

Dots are used to change the length of notes/rests so that we can develop an even more varied array of notes/rests to represent the more varied and interesting rhythmic combinations that helps to make music so diverse.

So what do Dots do:

'A Dot after a note/rest increases the value, or length of that note/rest by a half of the notes/rests value.'

We will refer to this definition when looking at our exercises and examples throughout the lesson.

Introducing The Dotted Quarter Note and Quarter Note Rest

You are familiar with the Quarter Note and Quarter Note Rest from your previous work. To understand a **Dotted Quarter Note/Rest**, you have to look at our definition of what a Dot does to the value of a note/rest.

So you know that our Quarter Note is worth One beat. A dot increases the note it follows by half of its value. Accordingly, half of one beat is half a beat. Therefore:

'A Dotted Quarter Note is worth one beat plus half a beat. One and a half beats'.

Look at the Table below:

Dotted Quarter Note



Dotted Quarter Note Rest



Value (in beats)

One and a half beats.

Note length

Obviously, adding a dot to a note makes it longer. A quarter note lasts one beat. A dotted quarter note lasts one and a half beats. Let's look at an example closely to help us understand the change in length.

In exercise 1 below, notice that in the second bar how beat 2 passes whilst the bass note is still sounding. Although the Snare drum plays a backbeat on 2 it still works because the bass does not interfere with the Snare drum.

This works well because the bass player often plays around the Snare drum backbeat rather than on it.

Use the multimedia files to listen to the sound of the quarter note and the dotted quarter note, listening to the slightly different note lengths and to the effect they have with the drums.

Once you are comfortable, have a go yourself, being very careful to play the notes to their full extent.

Exercise 1 lesson018.ibsidn.01



1 2 3 4 1 2 + 3 4

Applying note lengths to listening to the Backbeat

In this next exercise, we are going to play a very typical bass groove that incorporates dotted notes and is therefore a good example of how the bass doesn't interfere with the backbeat, even when notes within its rhythm sound over the backbeat played on the Snare drum.

It is the interaction between the rhythm section instruments which makes the music rhythmically interesting, as we started to discuss in lesson 13. It is how the separate Bass guitar and Drum patterns fit together that make creative and interesting rhythm section parts.

When using the multimedia files, pay great attention to how the bass guitar and drum parts fit together, then play along with the Xtractor to perfect your ability to play the new dotted quarter note bass pattern.

Exercise 2 lesson018.ibsidn.02



1 + 3 +

Exercise 3
lesson018.ibsidn.03



1 2 3 4

5 6 8

9 10 11 12