



Lesson Twenty Three

Introducing Ties

Gigajam Bass School Lesson 23 IBS IT

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce the use of *Ties* and develop understanding of their musical use.
- Develop ways of reading Ties effectively.
- Practise reading and playing Ties through a series of practical studies.

Understanding Ties

A **Tie** literally joins or ties two notes together. Two tied notes result in one sound. This sound lasts for the value of both notes. Ties appear often in music so it is important to understand them, to read them and to be able to play them.

You will recall that we looked briefly at Ties in Lesson 20, so that we could play the rhythm in the tune 'The Buzz'. Let's take a much deeper look at Ties starting with their definition.

Definition of a tie.

A Tie is a curved line between two notes of the same pitch indicating that the two notes should be played as one sound. This means that the first note combines its value to that of the second note—they are added together. Accordingly, only the first note is played. The second note is not played but its value is added to the first note.

Ties in action

The exercise below has two quarter notes. Each one lasts one beat. Listen and then play.

Exercise 1
lesson023.ibsit.01



Now, looking at the next exercise where the two notes have been tied together to make one-2 beat note.

In this exercise one sound is held for two beats. Therefore we have two one-beat notes, which have become a single two-beat note. It is of course not possible to tie together two notes of different pitch!

Using the multimedia files you will hear, see and feel the effect that tying different notes together has.

Exercise 2
lesson023.ibsit.02



Ties are used widely throughout music. They make the music more interesting rhythmically. Their use is a technique that enables composers to write music that crosses bar lines. Try the next example, which is a C major triad. Note that it also includes a dotted note.

Exercise 3
lesson023.ibsit.03



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Now, let's play the same Exercise again but this time we will tie the second and third notes together so that our second note lasts for one and a half beats. Notice how different this now sounds from exercise 3.

Exercise 4
lesson023.ibsit.04



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Notice how the tie changes the feel. It's just a C major triad but now it seems to have come to life. The next exercise copies this idea and moves it around to follow the chord progression.

Exercise 5
lesson023.ibsit.05



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Method for reading ties

This is a good trick to help with your reading of ties.

1. Ignore the tie and play all the notes.
2. Loop and repeat.
3. Where does the tie go?
4. Keep playing all the notes and try to imagine how it would sound with the tie in place.
5. When you can hear it-do it. Put the tie back in.
6. Loop and repeat.

The following exercises all include ties. Use the method for reading ties to work out how each example sounds and feels. Go over each of the 6 steps whilst working through each of the exercises.

Exercise 6
lesson023.ibsit.06



1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

Ties across the Bar line

Ties are used to create more interesting rhythms. It is possible to use a Tie to connect notes in adjacent bars and is a common tool used by composers.

We are going to Tie the last note in a bar to the first note of the next bar in our next exercise. Look at exercise 7 and go through it with the multimedia files, practicing to play and count over the bar line.

Playing across the bar line is often referred to as **Push**. This rhythm leads into or anticipates the next bar by arriving early. Remember to use the method for reading Ties.

Exercise 7 lesson023.ibsit.07



Exercise 8 lesson023.ibsit.08



Exercise 9 lesson023.ibsit.09



More practice

Having had a good introduction to Ties in lesson 20, we have now covered Ties in quite good depth. Nonetheless, the only way to become totally comfortable with any of the skills you have learned is to make sure that you practise them around and around. Ensure that you revisit this lesson and the exercises from time to time.