



Lesson Sixteen

Gigajam Guitar School Lesson 16 IGS IDNAT

Introducing Dotted Notes and Ties.

Lesson Objectives

- Introduce and then develop our understanding of the musical appearance and purpose of **Dots**.
- Understand the effect of dots on the note values of Half Notes and Quarter Notes.
- Introduce and then develop our understanding of **Ties**.
- Read and play a rhythmic based study, whilst changing chords.

Dots and Dotted Notes.

Dots are used to change the length of notes so that we may create increasingly more interesting rhythms.

A Dot after a note increases its value by half.

For example, a Half note which has a dot after it would increase the notes value from 2 beats to 3 beats. Half of its original value again.

Introducing the Dotted Half note.

Example 1 below shows a Half Note with a dot after it. As you know a Half note is worth 2 beats.

As mentioned above, by placing a dot after the note it increases its duration by half its length again.

Half Note 2 beats + 1 beat = 3 beats.

Example 1. Dotted Half note worth 3 beats



Developing rhythm using Dotted Half notes.

In our first exercise, we are going to use dotted half notes in a short 4 bar study. We will incorporate many of the note and rest values that we have learned so as to give you plenty of practice. Play the exercise using the power chord of A5.

Use the multimedia files to ensure that you are playing the exercise correctly.

Exercise 1 lesson016.igsidnat.01



A⁵

1 4 1 2 1 1 + 2

Introducing Ties

Ties are used in music notation to tie two notes together. This is sometimes necessary to lengthen the sound of the first note. For instance, we may want a note that is played on beat 3 of a common time bar to sustain for 4 beats. A new note will have to be written at the beginning of the next bar and then we tie our note in bar 1 to the new note in bar two. Look at the next exercise which demonstrates this example.

Once you have watched and listened to the multimedia files, try and play along. Make sure that you count clearly and accurately, so that you place the notes correctly.

Exercise 4 lesson016.igsidnat.04



Am

Developing use of Tied Rhythms

In the example above we play the Am chord on beats 1 and 3 in the first bar. As the second note in the first bar (beat 3) is tied to the first note in the next bar, we let it ring until the end of beat 2 in the second bar, before playing the chord again on beat 3.

Let's try a more intense rhythm using quarter notes. I have noted with accent marks which notes are played. As always make good use of the multimedia files to help you understand the exercise correctly.

Exercise 5 lesson016.igsidnat.05



Am

In the example above the markings show which beats are played. The value of the tied notes are held, but without striking the guitar on those beats. Let's try one more exercise for this lesson this time using eighth notes.

Exercise 6 lesson016.igsidnat.06



A⁵

Practice and familiarity

Dots and ties are used widely in music and a good understanding and familiarity is essential to be able to read and play ever increasingly more sophisticated rhythms.

The examples in this lesson are quite straightforward. However, they provide an essential basis for you to become comfortable and fluent in your rhythm reading and playing.