

Develop Your GuitEAR - The Rhythm Sessions
Rhythmic Dictation

Rhythmic Dictation will help you to;

- Get music that you have figured out on guitar to paper so that you don't forget parts of songs after you have played them on guitar
- Be able to work on longer pieces without having to forget earlier sections as you work them out
- Associate sounds that you hear with the rhythms that you see on paper so that new music is easier to learn
- Create your own tabs and sheet music for personal use, sharing with band mates to play, creating your own products (such as sheet music for sale) and many more

In the audio examples provided you will develop this skill by using the process shown in the table below. **If you are brand new to writing rhythmic notation, see the next pages of this document.**

You will hear four counts of a metronome to establish the beat	You will hear the rhythm example for the first time	You write down on this paper what you think the answer is	You will hear the rhythm example for the second time	(Optional) Correct any mistakes you think you may have made	← After you have done this for all examples check the answer page provided
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Example 1.

Example 2.

Example 3.

Example 4.

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If you are new or unsure how to write rhythmic notation, congratulations. Learning and mastering this new skill will help you receive all the benefits previously mentioned.

Let me give you a quick crash course in rhythmic notation, it is very simple to do with a little practice.

The Beat

In the track you will hear 4 metronome hits, this is to establish what is called the beat, the main pulse of a piece of music.

Quarter Notes

If you count (or clap) along to this metronome beat and continue to count (or clap) exactly in time with the beat, you would be playing what is known as quarter notes.

This is what it would look like;

Musical notation for two bars of 4/4 time. The first bar contains four quarter notes on a single staff, numbered 1 to 4. The second bar contains four chords, each represented by a stem with four dots on the staff, numbered 1 to 4. Below the staff is a TAB line with fret numbers: 3 3 3 3 for the first bar, and 0 0 0 0, 1 1 1 1, 2 2 2 2, 3 3 3 3 for the second bar.

What you are seeing is two bars of music, with 4 beats in each bar. Both have the same rhythm with 4 quarter notes in each bar, this is shown by the black dot on each beat with a stem. If you are wondering why they look different, here is an explanation on what you are seeing.

Musical notation for two bars of 4/4 time. The first bar is highlighted with a green box and contains four quarter notes on a single staff, numbered 1 to 4. The second bar is highlighted with a blue box and contains four chords, each represented by a stem with four dots on the staff, numbered 1 to 4. Below the staff is a TAB line with fret numbers: 3 3 3 3 for the first bar, and 0 0 0 0, 1 1 1 1, 2 2 2 2, 3 3 3 3 for the second bar.

Bar 1 (highlighted in green) – This is what quarter notes look like when you are hearing a single guitar note picked 4 times.

Bar 2 (highlighted in blue) – This is what quarter notes look like when you are hearing a strum of a chord, the many dots on each stem are showing each note within the chord.

For the rhythmic dictation exercises you will hear strummed chords, but you do not have to figure out each dot of the chord, just use the single note rhythm drawing (shown in green) like this...



(yes, your drawing doesn't have to be perfect, as long as the rhythm is clear)

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Eighth Notes (two notes per beat)

If you were to play twice as many notes on guitar in the same amount of time (the beats don't get faster you are simply playing an extra note in between the beats), you get what is known as eighth notes. This is 2 notes per beat.

At this point I should mention that some people may find it easier to simply listen to the rhythmic dictation examples and clap along to figure out whether there are any eighth notes than to get immersed in the theory but to be thorough I will explain a little further.

Below you will see 4 pairs of eighth notes in each bar. The first of each pair is the note "on the beat", this is where you will see the 1 2 3 4 count we did before. The second note of each pair of eighth notes is "off the beat", this is the note in between each beat. You can use the word "and" to read aloud the rhythms below.

The image shows two musical staves in 4/4 time. The first staff (Bar 1, highlighted in green) shows a single string (3rd fret) with four pairs of eighth notes. The notes are on the 3rd fret. Below the staff, the counts '1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and' are written. The second staff (Bar 2, highlighted in blue) shows a chord with four pairs of eighth notes. The notes are on the 0, 1, 2, and 3 frets. Below the staff, the counts '1 and 2 and 3 and 4 and' are written. A third bar is partially visible on the right.

Bar 1 (highlighted in green) – This is what eighth notes look like when you are hearing a single guitar note picked 4 times.

Bar 2 (highlighted in blue) – This is what eighth notes look like when you are hearing a strum of a chord, the many dots on each stem are showing each note within the chord.

For the rhythmic dictation exercises you will hear strummed chords, but you do not have to figure out each dot of the chord, just use the single note rhythm drawing (shown in green), like this....



(again, just focus on drawing the rhythm clear)

What to do now:

- Go back to the first page of this document and read the benefits that this will help you to achieve
- Read the instructions for the dictation exercises and start doing them
- Don't panic about writing the wrong answer, learn from your mistakes, this exercise is all about developing your skills, if you were already perfect at this then you wouldn't need to work on it
- Have fun!