
HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR TIME

DEVELOPING CONSISTENT TIME

The drummer must play all parts of the set in time. Before playing comping* figures on the snare drum and the bass drum, make sure that your ride cymbal and hi-hat have "locked in".

Example:



*comp means to accompany in a complimentary fashion.

Once locked in, gradually add comping figures on the snare drum and bass drum. Don't get too busy too fast. Try to achieve a balance of on the beat and off the beat figures.

FORM/STRUCTURE

The form of a tune must be adhered to by the drummer as well as the rest of the group. While there are many different musical forms, two of the most common song forms are:

- Blues** almost always 12 measures in length
- A-A-B-A** a standard song form usually 32 measures in length, consisting of four 8 measure phrases.

Note: One time through a form is called a chorus.

For Example:

A Melody	A Melody repeated with a possible slight variation	B Contrasting material (also called bridge or release)	A Return to original melody or variation
--------------------	--	--	--

BEBOP COMPING FIGURES (ONE MEASURE)

The image displays five staves of musical notation, each representing a different one-measure bebop comping figure. The notation is written in 4/4 time and uses a single treble clef staff. The figures are as follows:

- Staff 1:** Measure 1: Rest, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note. Measure 2: Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, rest. Measure 3: Rest, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note. Measure 4: Eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, rest.
- Staff 2:** Measure 1: Eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, rest. Measure 2: Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note. Measure 3: Eighth note, quarter note, quarter note, eighth note. Measure 4: Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note.
- Staff 3:** Measure 1: Rest, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note. Measure 2: Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note. Measure 3: Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note. Measure 4: Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note.
- Staff 4:** Measure 1: Eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note. Measure 2: Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note. Measure 3: Eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note. Measure 4: Eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, with a triplet bracket over the last three notes.
- Staff 5:** Measure 1: Eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, with a triplet bracket over the last three notes. Measure 2: Quarter note, eighth note, eighth note, quarter note. Measure 3: Eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, with a triplet bracket over the last three notes. Measure 4: Eighth note, eighth note, quarter note, eighth note, with a triplet bracket over the last three notes.

PRACTICE SUGGESTIONS

1. Play the one bar figures 4 times and then play 4 bars of time.
2. Also play 3 bars of time and the figure in the 4th measure.
3. Try singing a melody while you play a figure.
4. Try playing a 2 measure comping figure by playing measure 1 to 2, 1 to 3, 1 to 4, etc.

TWO MEASURE PATTERNS FOR IMPROVISATION

