

We are all familiar with 4/4 time, as it's the most common time found in Western music. It's so common, in fact, that it's sometimes referred to as "common time" and denoted in music with the letter "C" instead of a 4/4 symbol.

## Changing the Top Number

By changing the top number of a time signature, you are grouping the rhythms with a different number of beats than 4/4 time. By doing this, you are entering into a whole new world of musical possibilities. It's pretty simple to feel this type of odd meter since the quarter note is still the dominant rhythm. Odd meter grooves in 5/4, 7/4, etc., feel like 4/4 with just a couple of extra beats thrown in.

### 3/4 Grooves and Sample Basslines

Let's take a look at 3/4 patterns. This time signature is widely used in polkas, waltzes, and some jazz feels. However, it has been known to show its face in many a rock tune.

#### Example 2

#### Example 3

We can play another rhythm that will actually feel like a pattern of two. If we play a dotted quarter-note rhythm in the 3/4 measure, we will have two rhythms of equal value. It'll still be 3/4 time, but the pulse will feel like two. You will play on beat one and the "and" of two. This is a great way to "trick" your listener by going from one feel to another. This rhythm will be very important for all the other odd-meter grooves.

#### Example 4

Track 27

Play 16 times