

Rhythm Words.

Without rhythm we have no music, but without melody we can still have music and without harmony we can still have music. Rhythm supplies the pattern that allows us to make sense of music. You can't play accurately by yourself or with others in a band without everyone present being able to keep in time, you can't create good improvisations, you can't work out things by ear unless you know how to interpret rhythm. It's the absolutely fundamental musical skill.

Rhythm Pyramid Notes						
○				Whole Note		
♪		♪			Half Note	
♪	♪	♪	♪		Quarter Note	
♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	♪	Eighth Note

Write in the standard notation as shown on the left next to the Rhythm Words 1-8 below. Number 7 is a dotted quarter note - the dot adds 50% extra duration to the note.

For the purposes of these rhythms, each X = contact with the strings, and arm movement continues through unchecked squares.

	Down	Up	Down	Up
1	X			
2	X		x	
3	X	x	x	x
4	X	x	x	
5	X		x	x
6	X	x		x
7	X			x
8	X	x		

This way of thinking about rhythm will in the medium/long term:

- Allow you to hear a rhythm, play it accurately, and notate it
- Develop your abilities to transcribe rhythms by ear
- Increase your ease/confidence with reading and playing written rhythms Increase your options for creating sympathetic appropriate strumming patterns for songs
- Increase your awareness of the different rhythmic elements in music and how to play both single note lines and chords with good rhythm, in time
- Understand and play syncopated rhythms
- Have a set of 5-10 rhythms you can easily play that you are familiar with Now combine two rhythm words to create a full bar of rhythm – and write both the numbers of the rhythm words, and how the notation works – create three of these here:

Now try to work out what the 'rhythm words' that make up the examples you're going to hear are and write them down:

Snow Patrol – Chasing Cars

1 2 3 4

let ring -----|

T 0—0—0—0 0—0—0—0 0—0—0—0 0—0—0—0

A 2—2—2—2 2—2—2—2 1—1—1—1 1—1—1—1

B

5 6 7 8

let ring -----|

T 0—0—0—0 0—0—0—0 0—0—0—0 0—0—0—0

A 0—0—0—0 0—0—0—0 2—2—2—2 2—2—2—2

B

Ozzy Osbourne – Crazy Train

1 2

T

A

B 2 2 4 2 5 2 4 2 | 2 5 4 5 2 5 4 0

Pixies - Here Comes Your Man

Musical score for Pixies - Here Comes Your Man. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system has two measures, labeled 1 and 2. The second system has two measures, labeled 3 and 4. The melody is written in treble clef. The guitar part is written in TAB format below the melody. The guitar part for measure 1 is: 5-5-5-4-4-5-0. The guitar part for measure 2 is: 3-2-0-0-4-0-2.

Blue Oyster Cult - Don't Fear the Reaper

Musical score for Blue Oyster Cult - Don't Fear the Reaper. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system has two measures, labeled 1 and 2. The second system has two measures, labeled 3 and 4. The melody is written in treble clef. The guitar part is written in TAB format below the melody. The guitar part for measure 1 is: 0-2-2-0-3-2-0-0. The guitar part for measure 2 is: 1-3-0-0-3-2-0-0. The text "let ring" is written below the first measure of the guitar part.

Guns N Roses - Sweet Child of Mine

Musical score for Guns N Roses - Sweet Child of Mine. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. The first system has four measures, labeled 1, 2, 3, and 4. The second system has four measures, labeled 5, 6, 7, and 8. The melody is written in treble clef. The guitar part is written in TAB format below the melody. The guitar part for measure 1 is: 15-14-12-14-14-12-15-14. The guitar part for measure 2 is: 15-14-12-14-14-12-15-14. The guitar part for measure 3 is: 15-14-12-14-14-12-15-14. The guitar part for measure 4 is: 15-14-12-14-14-12-15-14. The guitar part for measure 5 is: 15-14-12-14-14-12-15-14. The guitar part for measure 6 is: 15-14-12-14-14-12-15-14. The guitar part for measure 7 is: 15-14-12-14-14-12-15-14. The guitar part for measure 8 is: 15-14-12-14-14-12-15-14.