## How to Count Anything

## Note Values

Each note equals 2 of the next smaller note.
Any note can be assigned any number of beats.


Triplets are played with $\mathbf{3}$ notes in the space of $\mathbf{2}$ :


## The Rule of the Dot: $\quad$ A dot adds $1 / 2$ the length of the note before.

 A dotted note equals 3 of the next smaller note.$\mathrm{w} .=\mathrm{w}+\mathrm{h}$
h. $=\mathrm{h}+\mathrm{q}$
q. $=q+e$
$\mathrm{w} .=\mathrm{h}+\mathrm{h}+\mathrm{h}$
h. $=q+q+q$
$q$. $=e+e+e$

## Time Signatures (Meter)

T = Top number (Number of beats in a measure)
$B=$ Bottom number (What kind of note gets 1 beat)
$2=\mathrm{h}, 4=\mathrm{q}, 8=\mathrm{e}, 16=\mathrm{x}$
Shortcut: "There are T B notes per measure."
Example: 9 "There are 9 eighth notes per measure."

Note:
C means 4
$\mathbb{C}_{\text {means }}^{2}$

## How to Count Anything

## Tips for nailing the rhythm:

1. Clap it first!
2. Assign the beat

- Assign the beat to a smaller note value.
- Change the beat to larger values after the first step becomes easy.

3. Learn small patterns that are repeated.
4. Start slow.
5. Try playing without ties and then adding them in.
(This can also be done by splitting longer notes into several shorter ones or by filling in rests with notes.)
6. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat.
7. Learn to see beat groups.

## 8. Count it right from the beginning!

## Accenting Eighth Note Groups

Samba
Hi-hat in samba
or triangle in baião
Baião
Baião \& Choro


Tying Eighth Notes

"Skipping" Eighth Notes
$2^{\text {nd }}$ beat

$3^{\text {rd }}$ eighth note


The "Mother Cell"
d. $\oint$ or Jd

In Na Bahia Term:

A baião rhythm:


Syncopated rhythms in Brazilian music are frequently played with a "laid back" feel. The short notes (first and last) become a little longer, stealing time from the long note.
Occasionally, the figure will completely transform into triplets. Note that the underlying eighth/sixteenth notes will still be played "straight."

The only way to learn to play this correctly is to listen to a great number of authentic Brazilian performances. Now, however, you can relax your performance just slightly to keep it from sounding metronomic or overly classical.

Try some typical Brazilian rhythms:


It is possible to syncopate a simple melody...


- By anticipating notes

- By delaying notes (by lengthening previous or adding rests)

- By diminishing note values


