

Yellow Award - Dotted Notes

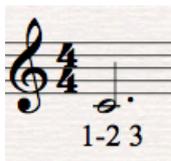
You should all know that in basic note values in a 4/4 bar of music there is one four beat note (semibreve), two two beat notes (minims), four one beat notes (crotchets), eight $\frac{1}{2}$ beat notes (quavers) and sixteen $\frac{1}{4}$ beat notes (semi quavers).

Dots appearing to the right of any of these notes mean we count differently for these notes. The dot increases what we count for the note by increasing it by half of its value.

A simple one to look at to begin with is:

A minim = 2 beats

A dotted minim = 3 beats



You can break this down further, in 4/4 time:

A dotted crotchet = $1\frac{1}{2}$ beats one beat for the crotchet and
half a beat for its dot (= quaver).

This is often followed by a quaver (worth half a beat).

The two notes together make up a total of two beats ($1\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{2} = 2$)

The crotchet receives all of beat one plus half of beat two, and the quaver following receives the other half of beat two:

Try and clap/tap out this rhythm to help you to understand:



Lil Liza Jane



I know a girl in Bal-ti-more Lil Li - za Jane Street cars run-ning by her door

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Lil' Li - za Jane Oh E-li - za Lil Li - za Jane oh E-li - za Lil li - za Jane

Now try singing using the words.

Next, try singing again while tapping out the rhythm with your feet. If you want to make it more difficult you could sing the words using the rhythm and tap out the pulse with your feet.

Finally, try playing this on your keyboard/piano.

We can break this down further still by using quavers and semi quavers:

Again, you can break this down even further, in 4/4 time:

A dotted quaver = $\frac{3}{4}$ beat half a beat for the quaver and
quarter of a beat for its dot (= semi quaver).

This is often followed by a semi quaver (worth quarter of a beat).

The two notes together make up a total of one beat ($\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{4} = 1$)

The quaver receives all of the half beat and half of the next beat, and the semi quaver receives the other second half of that next beat following:

Try and clap/tap out the rhythm first:

John Kanaka

Sea Shanty

I heard, I heard the old man say, John Ka-na-ka-na-ka
tu-lai-e! To-day, to-day, is a ho-li-day. John Ka-na-ka-na-ka
tu-lai-e! Tu-lai-e, oh, tu-lai-e! John Ka-na-ka-na-ka tu-lai-e!

Now try singing using the words.

Next, try singing again while tapping out the rhythm with your feet.

If you want to make it more difficult you could sing while you tap out the pulse with your feet.

Finally, try playing it on your keyboard/piano making sure you observe the key signature.