

Mixed Percussion and Keyboards at Home [at Leeds ArtForms]

Lesson 1

By Victoria Jaquiss

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Beats to the Bar 1: A Count-in

In a music class and in most bands, the leader or teacher will do a count-in. This does four main things and can do other [less obvious] things.

1	The count-in tells you exactly when to start.
2	The count-in gets all the players to start at the same time
3	The count in tells you how slow or fast to go
4	The count in tells how many beats there are in a bar
5	The count-in tells anyone not paying attention that the tune is starting
6	If you vary how loud or soft you speak you can get the class/band to play louder or softer
7	The count-in tells who is in charge, who to trust and who you would look to for help and reassurance

This is how a count-in works for **Polly Put the Kettle on*** on tuned percussion and keyboards:

Count-in	Bar 1	Bar 2	Bar 3	Bar 4
1 2 3 4	C D C B ^b	A F F -	G A G F	E C C -
1 2 3 4	Pol-ly-put-the	Ket-tle-on- -	Pol-ly-put-the	Ket-tle-on

As all the notes in all the bars in this song last for one beat, you say those notes [eg the C D C B^b of Bar 1] in exactly the same place in time as you would say the numbers.

This is how a count in works for djembes and untuned percussion

Count-in	Bar 1	Bar 2	Bar 3	Bar 4
1 2 3 4	■ . / .	■ ■ / .	■ . / .	▬▬▬ / .
1 2 3 4	Pol-ly-put-the	Ket-tle-on- -	Pol-ly-put-the	Ket-tle-on

In the bars above all the sounds and rests last for one beat, except the caterpillar, which lasts for two. *Reminder below of how to play the sounds for the djembe*

Symbol	Name	Sound	How played
■	Bass	Low thump	Thump table or bin top with one hand
/	Slap/tone	High hit	Lightly tap the other sound with one hand
▬▬▬	Caterpillar	4 quick repeated bass notes [thumps]sounds	Play 4 quick sounds on top, alternating hands
.	Space/rest	A silence, a space between sounds	Wait

*See *Polly the Kettle On on Play It At Home*

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[from Foxwood Panyard]

See and hear the songs played on Play It At Home

[from Foxwood Panyard website]