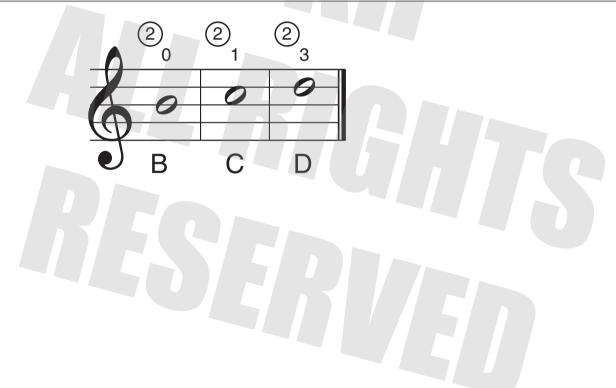
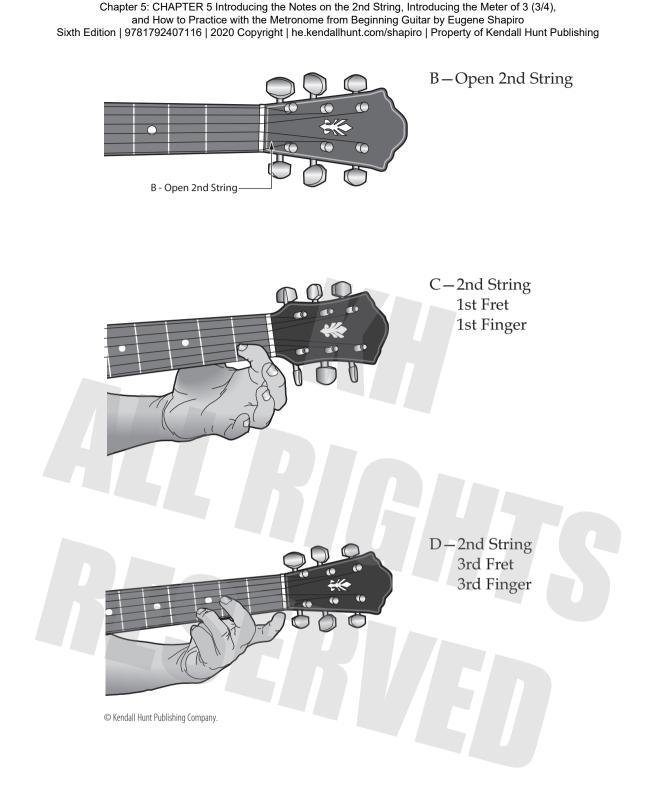
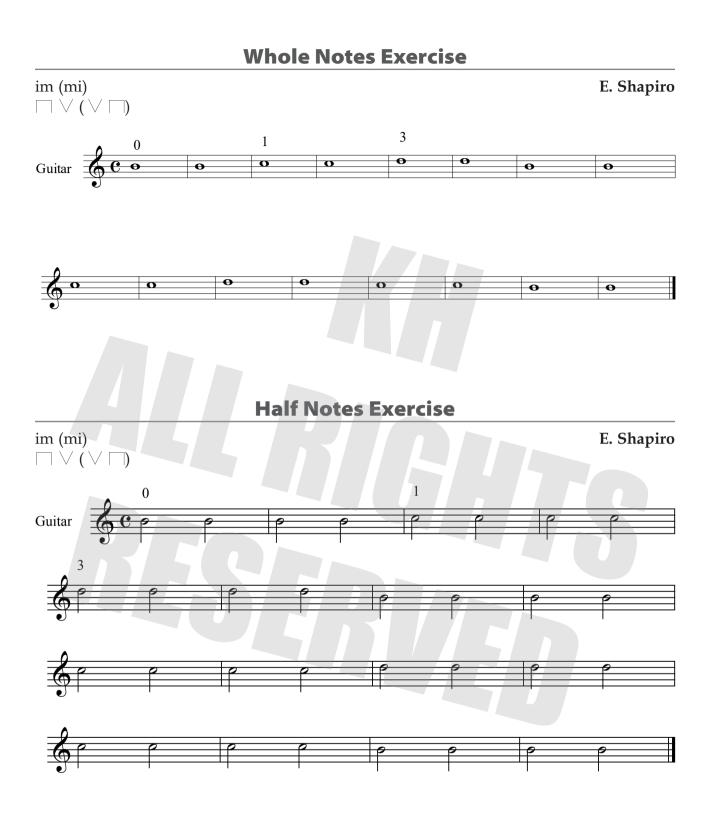


Introducing the Notes on the 2nd String, Introducing the Meter of 3 (³/₄), and How to Practice with the Metronome

Notes on the 2nd String



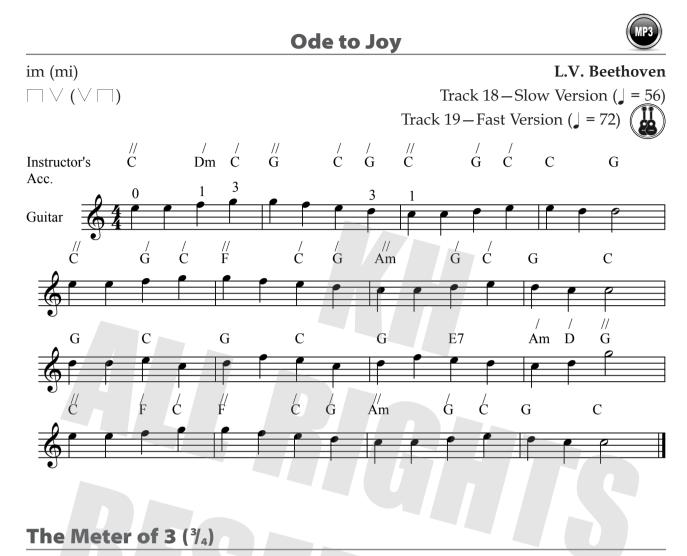












Everything we played so far was in the even meter of 4 (4/4), which is the most common meter in classical and also popular music.

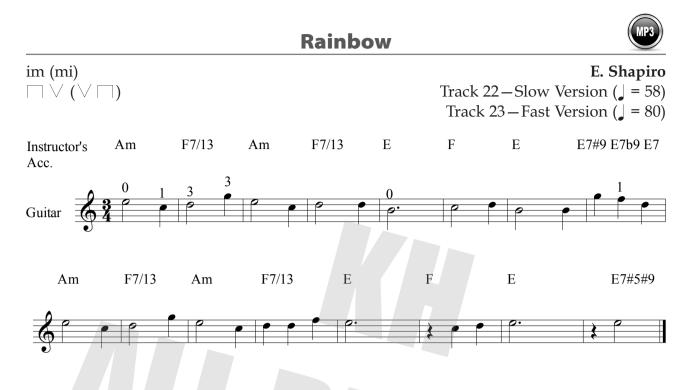
The next most common meter is the odd meter of 3 ($^{3}/_{4}$). According to what we discussed in Chapter 1, $^{3}/_{4}$ means that we will have 3 beats in every measure (one, two, three, one, two, three, and so on), and each beat will equal a quarter note. I am sure that most of you are familiar with the term waltz, which is usually in the meter of 3, for example.

In order to have one note in a ³/₄ measure, we need to introduce a *dotted half note:*

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The dot you see after the note increases the value of the given note by its half. In our case, we have a dotted half note. A regular half note equals two quarter notes. One half then would be a single quarter note. Thus, a dotted quarter note will equal three beats.





How to Practice with the Metronome

Being able to keep steady time is extremely important. Practicing with a metronome will help you to correct your rhythmic mistakes, make you more certain about time, and eventually will enable you to hear the tempo in your head. I can't stress enough the importance of playing in time, and therefore practicing with a metronome is essential.

The most common way to practice with the metronome is to put it on quarter notes. That means that each click on the metronome equals a quarter note. Therefore if you play quarter notes, you'll play on every beat (click). If you play half notes, then you'll play on one beat (click) and then skip the next. If you play whole notes, then you'll play on one beat (click) and then skip the next three.

As you can see, the metronome basically guides you and shows you the right time to play your notes, pretty much like a watch showing you the correct time.

You can vary the speeds (tempos) on the metronome. The numbers in the metronome app stand for beats per minute. I recommend playing every song in the book slow (at a comfortable speed for you), gradually increasing the tempo.

I would say between 50 and 100 beats per minute is a good way to practice. Of course, you can start much slower, between 30 and 49 beats per minute. And you can easily go over 100 beats per minute if you can or would like to try.

Important

- 1. Practicing with the metronome might be a challenge at first, especially if you have problems with playing in time. Make sure you practice with it regularly so you get used to it. It will improve your time, I guarantee that!
- 2. Some people also practice with the metronome set on eighth notes. That might be especially helpful to some of you when we start adding the eighth notes to our melodies. I will mention it again then. But if you'd like to try it now, then there'll be one click for an eighth note, two clicks for a quarter note (play on one and skip the next), four for a half note (play on one and skip the next three), and eight for a whole note (play on one and skip the next seven).
- 3. On some metronomes there'll be a feature where you can make it play quarter notes, eighth notes, and other options in any tempo (beats per minute). If you don't have that feature on your metronome you can achieve the same effect by increasing your metronome's speed in two. For example, if you played at 50 beats per minute as quarter notes, put it on 100 beats per minute and regard each click as an eighth note.
- 4. Make sure you learn how to subdivide longer notes into shorter ones. For example, a dotted half note can be subdivided into three quarter notes (count one, two, three). So you would play a dotted half note on one (first beat), and then subdivide (count in your head) "two, three (second and third beats)." Subdividing when you play will help you to play in time.