



Lesson Seventeen

Gigajam Drum School Lesson 17 IDS IDN

Reading– Introducing Dotted Notes Part 1

Lesson Objectives

- Develop our understanding of the appearance and musical purpose of **Dots**.
- Understand the affect of Dots on the Note Values of Quarter Notes and Eighth Notes.
- Apply our understanding of Dots to Snare Drum Studies of both Quarter Notes and Eighth Notes.

Dots and Dotted Notes

Dots are used to change the length of notes/rests so that we can develop an even more varied array of notes/rests to represent the more varied and interesting rhythmic combinations that helps to make music so diverse.

So what do Dots do:

'A Dot after a note/rest increases the value, or length of that note/rest by a half of the notes/rests value.'

We will refer to this definition when looking at our exercises and examples throughout the lesson.



To develop our understanding of Dots, we have split this lesson into two parts. In this first part, we will apply our knowledge to Snare Drum Studies specifically. In part 2 we will be applying dotted notes to developing more Rock Grooves.

Introducing The Dotted Quarter Note and Quarter Note Rest

We are familiar with the Quarter Note and Quarter Note Rest from our previous work. To understand a **Dotted Quarter Note/Rest**, we have to look at our definition of what a Dot does to the value of a note/rest.

So we know that our Quarter Note is worth One beat.
A dot increases the note it follows by half of its value.
Accordingly, half of one beat is half a beat. Therefore:
'A Dotted Quarter Note is worth one beat plus half a beat. One and a half beats'.

Look at the Table below:

Dotted Quarter Note	Dotted Quarter Note Rest	Value
		One and a Half Beats

Introducing The Dotted Eighth Note and Eighth Note Rest

We are also familiar with the Eighth Note and Eighth Note Rest from our previous work. To understand a **Dotted Eighth Notes/Rests** we have, again, to look at our definition of what a dot does to the value of a note/rest.

So our Eighth Note is worth Half a beat.

A dot increases the note it follows by half of its value.

Accordingly, half of half is a quarter. Therefore:

'A Dotted Eighth Note is worth half a beat plus a quarter of a beat, three Quarters of a beat'.

Look at the Table below:

Dotted Eighth Note	Dotted Eighth Note Rest	Value
		Three Quarters of a Beat

Developing our Understanding of Dotted Quarter Notes/Rests

To help us understand how Dotted Notes and Rests sound we have a short Snare Drum Study to look at.

Here we have introduced Dotted Quarter Notes into a Rhythmic Exercise. Go through each bar, making sure you understand the note positions created by the Dotted Quarter Notes/Rests.

See if you can follow our first exercise through. I recommend that you count 1+2+3+4+, so that you can keep in time accurately, particularly during the long gaps.

Once you have done that, play along with the media files checking that you are playing the patterns correctly.

Snare Drum Study 1-Dotted Quarter Notes

Exercise 1
lesson017.idsidn.01



1 2 3 4



1 + 3 + + + 3 4 + 1 + 2 3 + 1 2 + 3 +

5 6 7 8



1 + 3 + 4 + + + 1 + 2 + 1 + + +

Developing our Understanding of Dotted Eighth Notes/Rests

We now need to understand how Dotted Notes and Rests sound when applied to Eighth Notes/Rests. Again we have a short Snare Drum Study to look at.

Here we have introduced Dotted Eighth Notes into a Rhythmic Exercise which characterises the most common use of the dotted Eighth Note.

Go through each bar methodically, making sure you understand the Note positions created by the Dots. Again see if you can follow the exercise through.

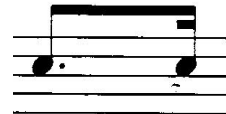
I recommend that you count 1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a, so that you can keep in time accurately, particularly during the long gaps.

Dotted Eighth Note and Sixteenth Note Figure

Before we start though lets just have a look at the Dotted Eighth Note Sixteenth Figure.

From our previous study you should recognise this figure, but lets just go through it to clarify each of the notes and how the Rhythm is created.

*The first note has a dot after it and, of course, it is an eighth note because it is beamed with only one beam. i.e. one tail.
The second note is a sixteenth note, because it has two beams (Tails).*



We know that a dotted Eighth Note is worth Three Quarters of a beat, so our dotted eighth note is worth '1 e +'.

The sixteenth is worth a quarter of a beat and is on the 'a'.

Accordingly we have four sixteenth notes covered and therefore a complete beat.

Now, have a look at the following study and work through it step by step finally ending up playing along with the media files checking that you are playing the patterns correctly.

Snare Drum Study 2-Dotted Eighth Notes

Exercise 2
lesson017.idsidn.02



1 2 3

1 a 2 + 3 a 4 1 a 2 a 3 4 a 1 + 2 a 3 + 4 +

4 5 6

1 2 + 3 a + a 2 a a 4 + 1 a a 3 a a

7 8

a 2 a a a 1 + a 3 + a