



## Lesson Eighteen

Gigajam Keyboard School Lesson 018 IKS DDN

### Developing Dotted Notes

#### Lesson Objectives

- Develop understanding of the appearance and musical purpose of Dots.
- Understand the affect of Dots on the Note Value of Quarter Notes and Quarter Note Rests.
- Apply understanding of Dots to your performance by playing studies which use melody and chords.

#### Dotted Quarter Notes

You learned about adding a Dot to a note or rest in Lesson 17. You can revise this information if necessary.

You learned about **Quarter Notes** in Lesson 1 and about **Rests** in Lesson 11. You can revise this information too, if necessary, in summary:



- A Quarter Note lasts for one beat.
- A Dot increases value by half.
- Half of one is a half.

Therefore,

- A Dotted Quarter Note lasts for 1 and a half beats – that's one beat (the Quarter Note) plus half a beat (the Dot).

The following table illustrates this:

Fig 1 Table of Dotted Quarter Notes and Dotted Quarter Notes

| <i>Dotted Quarter Note</i>  | <i>Dotted Quarter Note Rest</i>   | <i>Value</i>         |
|---|---|----------------------|
|  |  | One and a Half Beats |

#### Dotted Quarter Notes in Melody

This adds another dimension to melodic rhythm because it is now possible to play a melody note which is one and a half beats long – a Dotted Quarter Note.

Exercise 1 will help you to practise playing a melody containing dotted quarter notes. Look at it first and make sure you understand exactly what the rhythm is. Count it out loud to yourself. When you are ready, play along with the media files. Only the first five notes of the D Major scale are used – remember to use the correct right hand fingering.

**Exercise 1**  
Lesson018.iksdnn.01



## Apply the Left Hand

Now play that exercise again, this time with a triad played in the left hand. The triad lasts for four beats. Remember to use the correct fingering for both hands.

**Exercise 2**  
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## Dotted Quarter Notes Rests in Melody

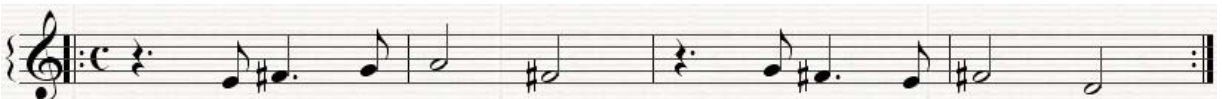
It is also possible to use a Dotted Quarter Note Rest in a melody. Using a rest creates space and allows the music to breathe.

Exercise 3 will help you to practise playing a melody containing dotted quarter note rests. Look at it first and make sure you understand exactly what the rhythm is. Count it out loud to yourself and remember to leave a space or silence for the dotted rest.

When you are ready, play along with the media files.

Only the first five notes of the D Major scale are used – remember to use the correct right hand fingering.

**Exercise 3**  
lesson018.iksdnn.03



## Add Left Hand

Now play that exercise again, this time with a triad played in the left hand. Each triad lasts for four beats. Remember to use the correct fingering for both hands.

### Exercise 4 lesson018.iksdnn.04



## Mixing It Up

Many of the exercises in these lessons are specially written to focus on one particular aspect of your playing. For example, a whole exercise based only on dotted quarter notes. In reality however, the most interesting music is often a combination of different musical information.

Exercise 5 is a good example of this mixed musical activity. It includes dotted quarter notes and eighth notes. It also includes quarter note rests.

Additionally, your left and right hands will sometimes be working independently from each other. For example, in bars 2 and 4 the left hand plays a dotted half note triad, which lasts for three beats. You can practise each hand separately first.

Look at it first and make sure you understand exactly what the rhythm is. Count it out loud to yourself. When you are ready, play along with the media files.

Only the first six notes of the D Major scale are used – remember to use the correct fingering for both hands.

### Exercise 5 lesson018.iksdnn.05



## Introduction to Dotted rhythms

The last two lessons have provided you with the concept of Dotted Notes and how they are applied to rhythm and the reading of rhythm. Make sure that you have fully understood how dots are applied to all notes and that you can read and play all the examples well as you will need these skills as we move through the grades and you become a more proficient performer.