



Lesson Twenty Six

Gigajam Keyboard School Lesson 026 IKS DT

Developing Ties

Lesson Objectives

- Understand eighth note ties.
- Practise playing ties in melody and chords.
- Understand dots and ties together.

Eighth note ties

The previous lesson introduced reading and playing ties using half and quarter notes. Tie-ing 1/8 notes together is also common in popular music. The next monotone exercise will help you to be able to read and play tied eighth note patterns. Read through it first to make sure you understand each of the rhythms involved. The eighth note counting method is of invaluable assistance of course:

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

Remember, as suggested in the previous lesson, if you experience any difficulty reading a tie, ignore it! Pretend it isn't there and play the notation without it. Keep playing it - loop and repeat it over and over – without the tie. Listen carefully to how it sounds and feels. Then try to imagine how it would sound with the tie back in place. Don't put the tie back yet, just imagine how it would sound and feel if you had. When you can hear how it would sound, put the tie back in and play the notation correctly.

Exercise 1

lesson026.iksdt.01



The tie happens on the 'and' of beat 2 – count 1 and 2 and – the and is then held over. Beat 3 is not played. The complete count for this rhythm is:

$$1 + 2 + (3) + 4 +$$

Add some pitch notes to this rhythm to create a little G major melody.

Exercise 2

lesson026.iksdt.02



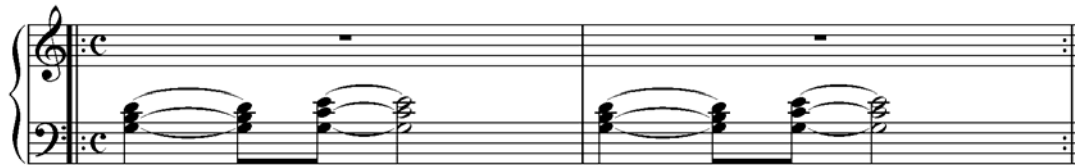
Tied chords

A keyboard player would add some chords (G and C) played in the left hand to support the melody. The chords wouldn't play exactly the same rhythm as the melody, that wouldn't sound good – too busy and cluttered. Play the chords on beat 1 and on the + of beat 2 to provide support for the melody.

Practise the left hand chords separately first.

Exercise 3

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Now practise both the melody and chords together.

Exercise 4

lesson026.iksdt.04



Notice how the melody and chords move together to support and complement one another.

Dots and ties together

This chord rhythm could be written slightly differently using a dotted note in place of the first tie.

The first tie in exercise 4 connects a quarter note and an eighth note – that's $1 + 1/2 =$ one and a half beats. A dotted quarter note is also worth one and a half beats.

Read and play the same exercise written out with dotted notes.

Exercise 5

lesson026.iksdt.05



Now play the next exercise, which has a rhythmic change in the melody.

Exercise 6
lesson026.iksdt.06



Developing use of tied rhythms

The keyboard player often has a very important supporting role in the band. After all, the guitar is the only other instrument which can play chords. Often, the keyboard player provides the harmonic information necessary to support the music.

One effective way of doing that is of course to play chords, which can be played in the either hand. If there's a keyboard melody, it is usually played in the right hand, leaving the left hand free to provide the chords.

Alternatively, the left hand could play low root bass notes to support the right hand playing the chords. When the chord changes, the left hand root bass note usually changes too.

The next exercise demonstrates that it is also possible for the left hand to stay still and not change the root bass note even when the right hand chord changes.

Exercise 7
lesson026.iksdt.07



Exercise 8 is similarly effective – the combination of the ties and the changing relationship between the root bass note and the chords generates power and energy.

Exercise 8
lesson026.iksdt.08



Use of tied notes in accents and emphasis

Tied notes are often used to create an accent or emphasis in the music. This is often referred to as a **push** which is when a note or chord comes ahead of the next beat and seems to bring the beat forward by pushing early into the beat - by anticipating it. This is a particularly useful tool. In fact, that is exactly what has been happening in the last three exercises – the chord changes early to support the melody.

The following exercise introduces a slightly different rhythm

1, 2, (3) + 4

It's written out as a monotone, so try to read the rhythm first. Take the tie off, if you need to.

Exercise 9
lesson026.iksdt.09



Now play the rhythm as chords in the right hand.

Exercise 10
lesson026.iksdt.10



Practice and familiarity

Ties are widely used in music and a good understanding and familiarity is essential to be able to read and play ever increasingly more sophisticated rhythms. Make sure you understand all the tied rhythms used in both this lesson and the previous one (Lesson 25).

The examples in this lesson are quite straightforward. However, they provide an essential basis for you to become comfortable and fluent in your rhythm reading and playing.