

Eighth Note Triplets

A triplet is a group of three notes played in the time value that is usually given to two of that type of note.

The triplet is marked with a number "3" either above or below the notes.

In an eighth note triplet, each eighth note is equal to one third of a beat. Count the rhythm by dividing each beat into three syllables. ie. 1-&-a 2-&-a 3-&-a 4-&-a
 or 1-trip-let 2-trip-let 3-trip-let 4-trip-let..

1-&-a 2-&-a 3-&-a 4-&-a

1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a

1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a 1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a 1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a 1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a

etc.

Several picking methods can be used in playing triplets. Students looking to perfect their technique will practice all methods. Students not so interested will often just practice haphazardly.

or

At a fast tempo, in a long stream of triplet eighths, an alternating pick stroke may be the best solution.