

Syncopation with Jazz Eighths

If you have mastered the lilting quality of the jazz eighths, syncopating with a swing will not be a great obstacle. However, let's take a look at what happens mathematically with a few common syncopations when we "jazz it up." Keep in mind that in the jazz eighths, the first portion of the beat is $\frac{2}{3}$ and the second part is $\frac{1}{3}$ of the beat.

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

The dotted quarter now becomes 1 and $\frac{2}{3}$ of a beat in length. This example shows the actual mathematical time elements but is tedious to write.

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

The quarter note between the two eighth notes still receives a whole beat but it comes in on the last third of the first beat and lingers through the second third of the second beat. Once again, more correctly written it would take on this very tedious to read characteristic.

Swinging Solo

"Sync or Swim in G"

glide picking works well here

A syncopated melody often sounds interesting against a relatively square accompaniment.

Keep in mind that an accompaniment eighth note rhythm also has to be done with jazz eighths.