Rhythmic Patterns
By Mark Feezell, Ph.D.

This book moves systematically through the core rhythmic patterns of music. Most patterns have various versions (with ties, rests, different time signatures). The different versions match up so that half the class can perform a "simpler" version while the other half performs the "more difficult" version. If you struggle, back up and try an easier version of the same pattern. There are many free sources online that explain rhythmic values and time signatures (e.g. LearnMusicTheory.net).

You can use the patterns many ways:
1. Perform each line individually
2. Right hand/Left hand exercises using any 2 adjacent lines (1/2, 2/3, etc.)
3. Ensemble practice, duets, trios, etc.

PRACTICE SLOWLY, LEARN QUICKLY!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. 3s Pattern A (includes 6s), page 3
2. 3s Pattern B (includes 6s), page 18
3. 4s Pattern A (includes 2s), page 33
4. 4s Pattern B (includes 2s), page 42
5. 4s Pattern C (includes 2s), page 51
6. 4s Pattern D (includes 2s), page 60
7. 5s, page 69
8. 7s 3+2+2, page 72
9. 7s 2+3+2, page 75
10. 7s 2+2+3, page 78
11. 2:3 Tuplets (Polyrhythm), page 81
12. 3:4 Tuplets (Polyrhythm), page 84
13. Mixed Tuplets, page 87
14. Mixed Meter, page 93
15. Additive Rhythm, page 95

Thanks to my son Daniel for helping me with calculating the patterns. The idea for this book came during worship at church on Mother's Day 2022.
3s Pattern A (Ties)
3s Pattern A (Ties)
3s Pattern A (Ties)
3s Pattern A (Rests)
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3s Pattern B (Ties)
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3s Pattern B (Rests)
3s Pattern B (Plain)
3s Pattern B (Ties)
4s Pattern A (Ties)
4s Pattern A (Plain)
4s Pattern A (Ties)
4s Pattern A (Plain)
4s Pattern B (Rests)
4s Pattern B (Plain)
4s Pattern C (Plain)
4s Pattern C (Ties)
4s Pattern D (Ties)
4s Pattern D (Ties)
5s (Ties)
5s (Rests)
7s 3+2+2 (Rests)
Note: For 2:3 and 3:4, learn the composite rhythm of the combined rhythm (line 3).
Note: For 2:3 and 3:4, learn the composite rhythm of the combined rhythm (line 3).
2:3 Tuplets (+ Composite)

Note: For 2:3 and 3:4, learn the composite rhythm of the combined rhythm (line 3).

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3:4 Tuplets (+ Composite)

Note: For 2:3 and 3:4, learn the composite rhythm of the combined rhythm (line 3).
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3:4 Tuplets (+ Composite)

Note: For 2:3 and 3:4, learn the composite rhythm of the combined rhythm (line 3).
Mixed Tuplets (Rests)

[Music notation image]

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Mixed Tuplets (Plain)

1. Please pass the bread and butter.
3. In-com-pat-i-bil-i-ty.

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Mixed Tuplets (Ties)

please pass the bread and butter

hip-po-po-ta-mus

in-com-pat-i-bil-i-ty

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Mixed Tuplets (Rests)

pass the
and ter

po-po-ta-mus

in-com-pat-i-bil-i-ty
Mixed Meter / Changing Meter (Constant Eighths)

Beat patterns (learn this line first)

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Mixed Meter / Changing Meter (Changing Tempos)

Beat patterns (learn this line first)

*It may be useful to practice the 2:3 tuplets patterns first.