

# Ten Minute Tech

## The Rhythmic Scale

I worked with a great drummer once and was asking him how to improve my timing and rhythmic playing, especially whilst improvising. He told me about this exercise.

### The Rhythmic scale

Above, in the music, are subdivisions of a beat.

Set a metronome to 4/4 time, 60bpm and clap crotchets to it.

Next bar, clap quavers (Quavers are half beats- two quavers to every crotchet or "bip" of the metronome).

Next bar clap triplets (each triplet is a third of a beat- 3 triplets to every crotchet).

Next bar clap semiquavers (a semiquaver is a quarter of a beat- four semiquavers to every crotchet).

Count using the markings above and it should sound like this (from left to right).

" one, two, three, four,  
one and, two and, three and, four and,  
one-and-ah, two-and-ah, three-and-ah, four-and-ah,  
one-e-and-ah, two-e-and-ah, three-e-and-ah, four-e-and-ah "

Then descend the rhythms, finishing back on crotchets, as show in the music.

When comfortable with this, try it on the G string using alternate picking (as notated above).

Eventually we can climb up to more complicated divisions- adding five notes per crotchet, six notes per crotchet, seven notes per crotchet and eight notes per crotchet.

Use this as a brief warm-up every time you play! It will help you play in time with backing tracks and other musicians!