

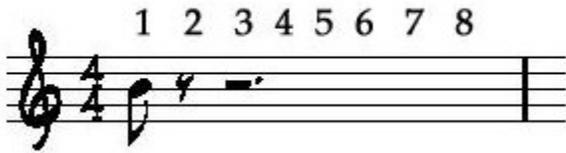
This is a simple but useful exercise that will improve your time feel, phrasing and understanding of rhythm:

In 4/4 time (four beats per measure) you have eight 8th notes per bar:



Your drill is to play over a song, playback or a metronome and choose only a single 8th note to play on.

For example, if you chose to play only on the first 8th note, every bar is going to look like this:



Another example: if you chose to play only on the fourth 8th note, every bar is going to look like this:



- * Practice all the options for playing each one of the eight 8th notes.
- * Keep in mind that you can either tap this drill with your hand, knock on a table, etc. or play it on your instrument. If you are playing this drill over a song or any chord progression, you might want to use different notes according to different chords you are playing over. For example: for the chord Cmaj7 you might play the note E, while for the chord C-7 you might play the note Eb.
- * Keep in mind that you can do the same in other meters, for example, in 3/4, 5/4, etc.
- * Keep in mind that you can also decide on two or three 8th note combination. For example: you can play both the second 8th note and the seventh 8th note in each bar, or any other combination.
- * Keep in mind that a standard way of thinking about playing 8th notes is 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & instead of 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8. So when playing on the second 8th note you can also think in terms of playing on the “and of beat one”.

There are more lessons and also short guides with thoughts and ideas about improvisation and about music on my website in the section “free stuff”: www.assafkehati.com

Check out every few weeks for more lessons and tips!