

# Drum Beats

## Odd Time Signatures

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Odd time signatures require practice to groove smoothly. Notable odd-time drummers include Neil Peart (Rush), Joe Morello (Dave Brubeck), Bill Bruford (Yes), John Bonham (Led Zeppelin) and others. Listen carefully to the drum solo in Take Five, as Joe Morello delivers an amazing example of working outside the barline yet never faltering from his awareness of where "one" falls. This recording remains one of the most impressive examples of odd-time mastery in studio recording.

### "La Villa Strangiato" Rush *Hemispheres*

Note - Hi hat pedal opens only as theme develops - use sparingly

1

### "Take Five" by Dave Brubeck *Time Out*

Tight swing groove - easy does it on the snare ghost notes

2

### "Tied to the Whipping Post" by The Allman Brothers - Alternating Time signatures

3

Drummers are often asked to figure out a time signature in a piece using just their ears. By listening to the "Lowest Common Denominator" pulse of the song you can count the number of beats by identifying the intended downbeat of "one". It is an excellent skill to develop.

Listen to the audio CD and try to do this with each track. Bear in mind that most of the included songs resolve to an even time signature eventually. They can also be interpreted in more than one way. Try to go with the simplest solution in stating an odd time signature pattern.

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. La Villa Strangiato: 7/8 | 9.  |
| 2. Take Five: 5/4           | 10. |
| 3. Whipping Post: 6/8, 5/8  | 11. |
| 4.                          | 12. |
| 5.                          | 13. |
| 6.                          | 14. |
| 7.                          | 15. |
| 8.                          | 16. |