guitar

reading | technique | performance

READING 4

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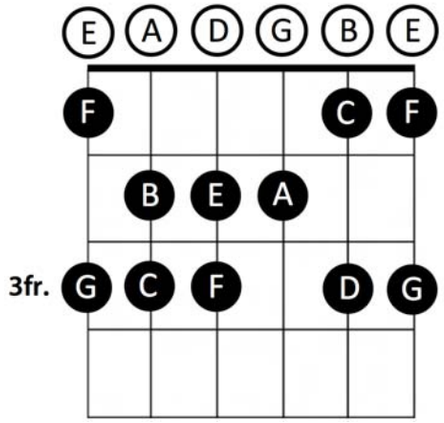
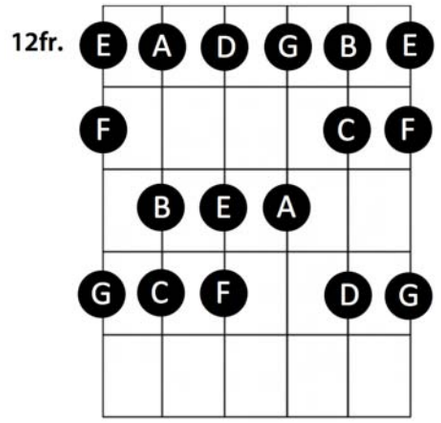
Chapter 1: Exploring Twelfth Position

Reading music in the twelfth position is a challenge due to the number of ledger lines involved, but it is also fairly easy to maneuver in this area of the fretboard, as it has the same layout and location of notes as in the open position. Look at the following diagrams:

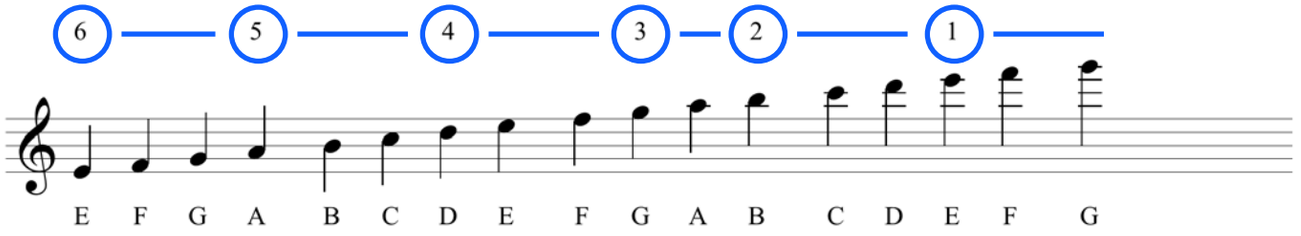
Ex. 1.1 The Natural Notes in Open Position



Ex. 1.2 The Natural Notes in 12th Positio

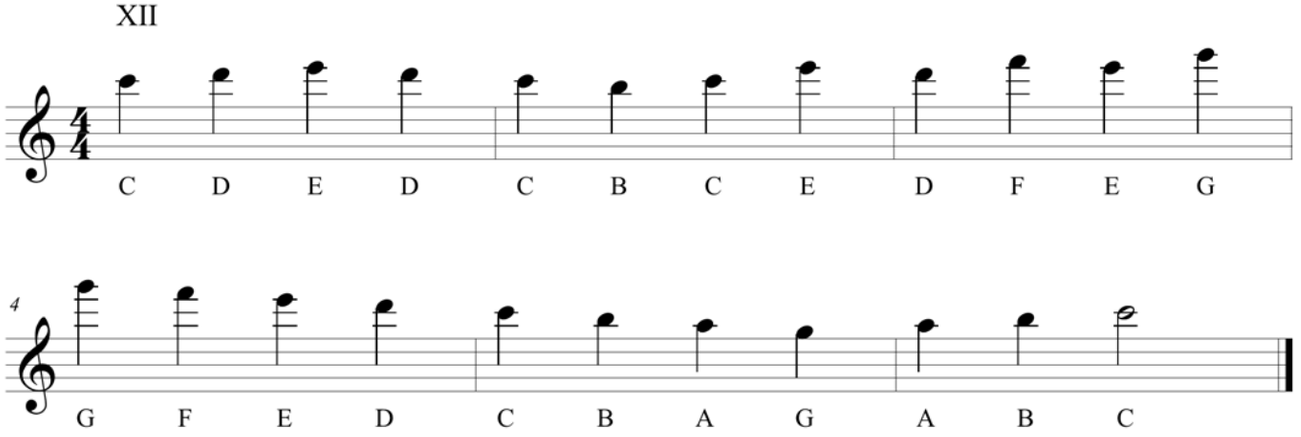


Here are all the notes in twelfth position written out using standard notation:
Ex. 1.3

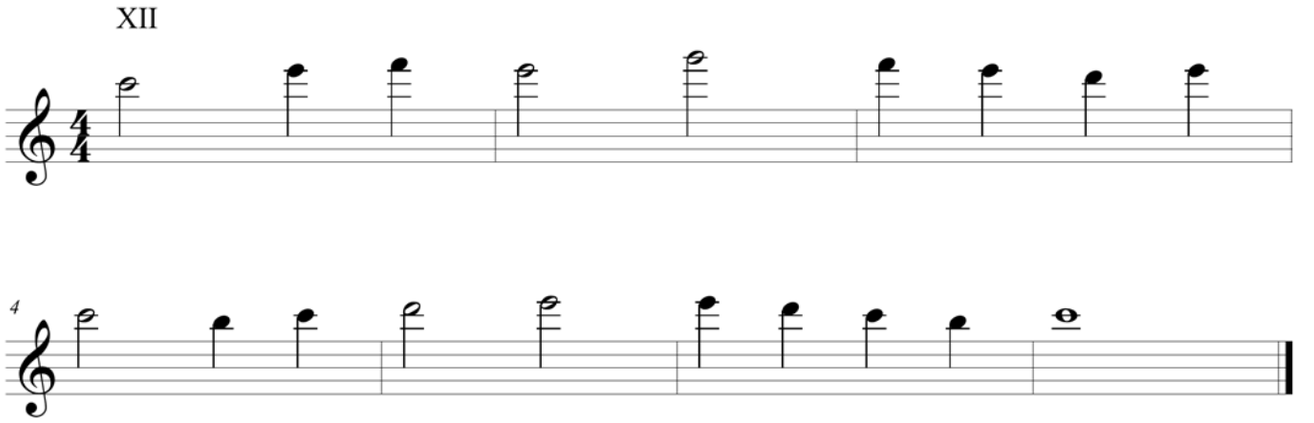


Play through the following examples in the twelfth position:

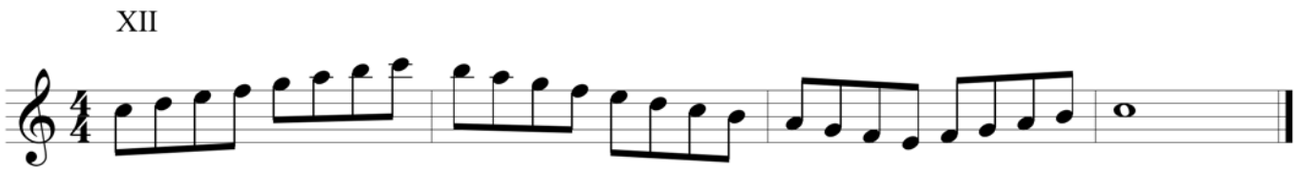
Ex. 1.4 Ledger Lines with Note Names



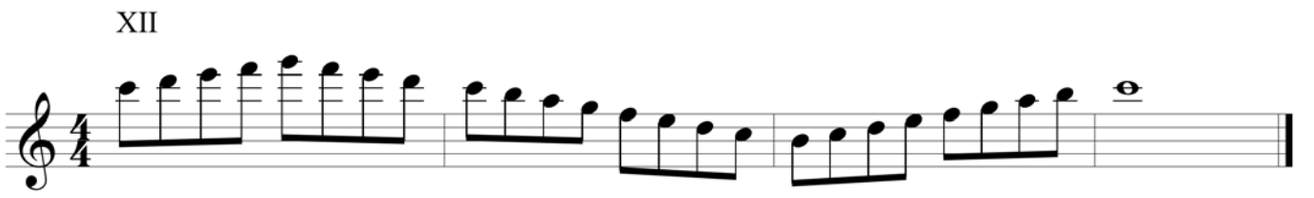
Ex. 1.5 Ledger Lines without Note Names



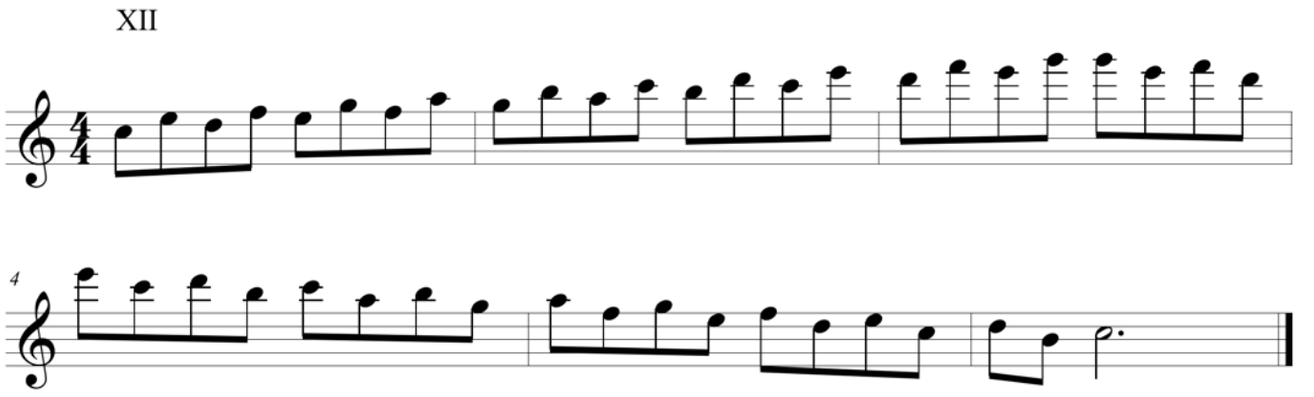
Ex. 1.6 C Major Scale Ascending and Descending



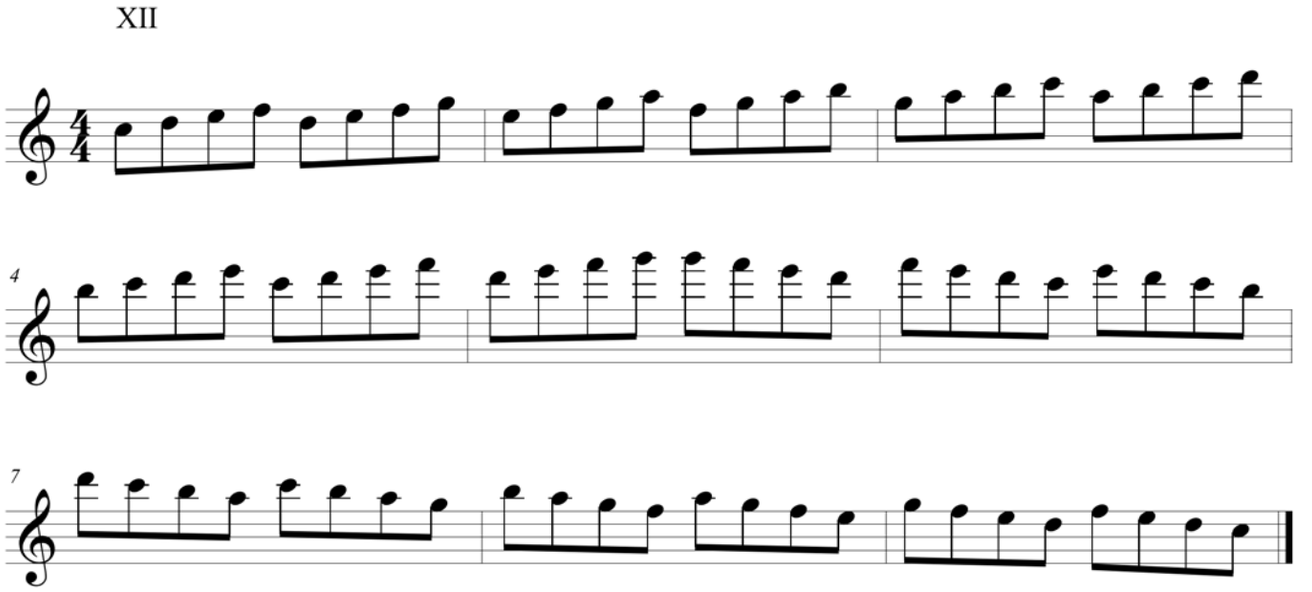
Ex. 1.7 C Major Scale Ascending and Descending



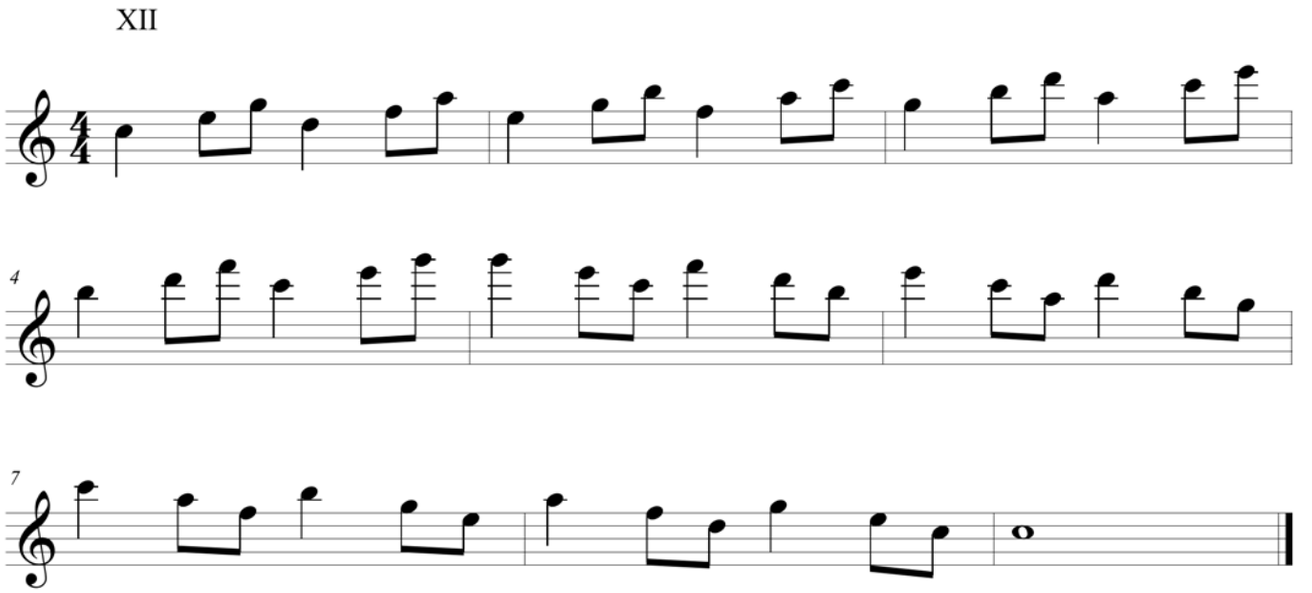
Ex. 1.8 C Major Scale, Third Leaps



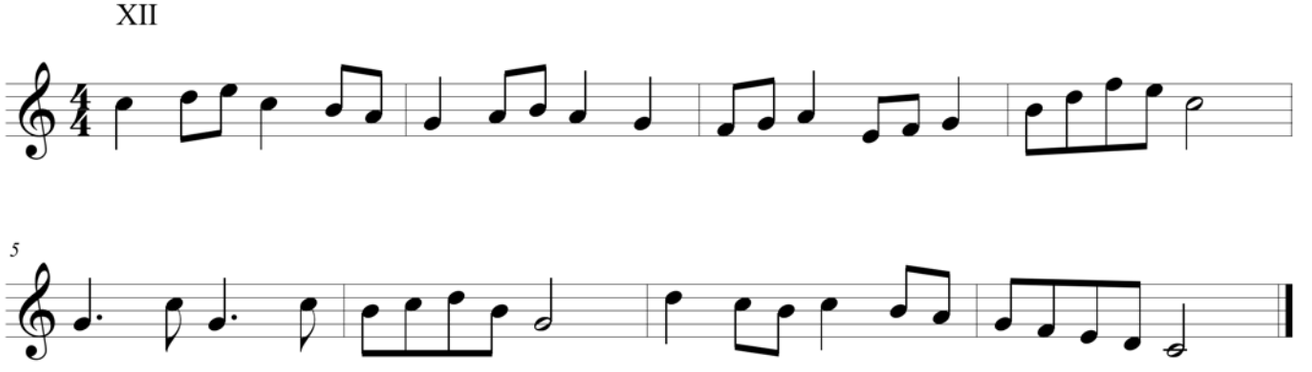
Ex. 1.9 C Major Scale, Groups of Four



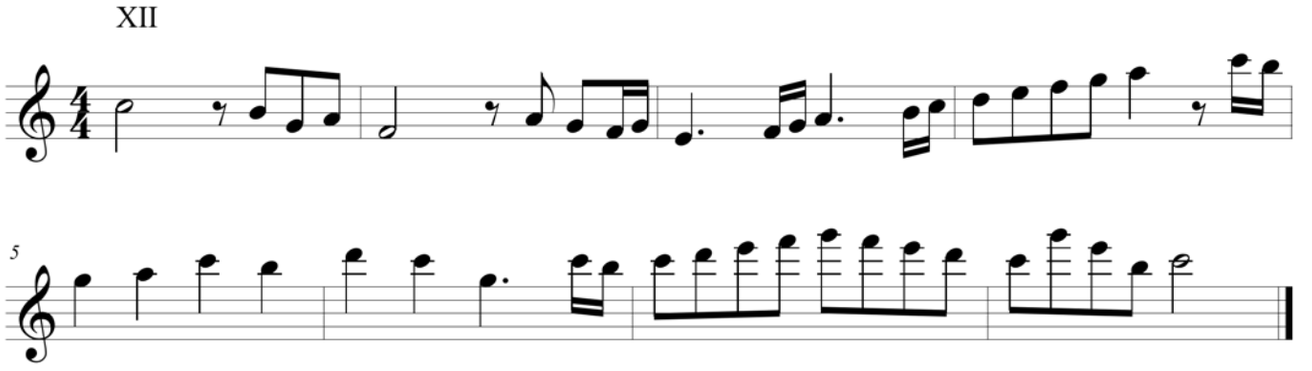
Ex. 1.10 C Major, Diatonic Triads



Ex. 1.11 Melody Example



Ex. 1.12 Melody Example



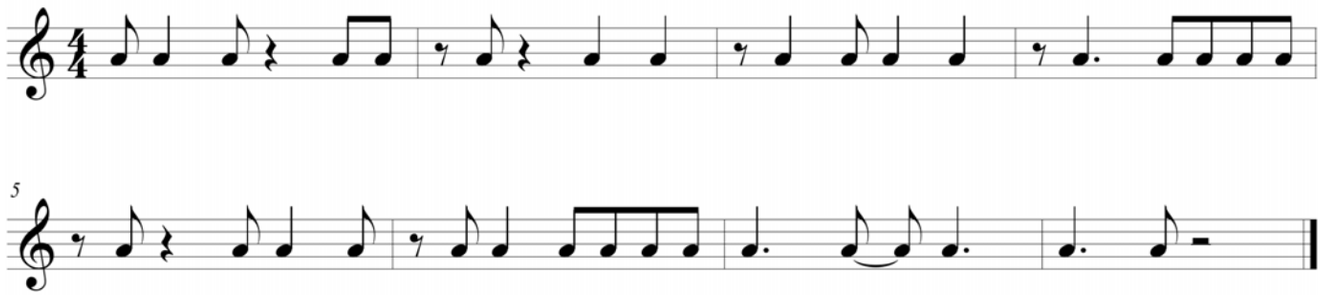
Chapter 2: Syncopated Rhythms

Reading Syncopated Rhythms (Straight Feel)

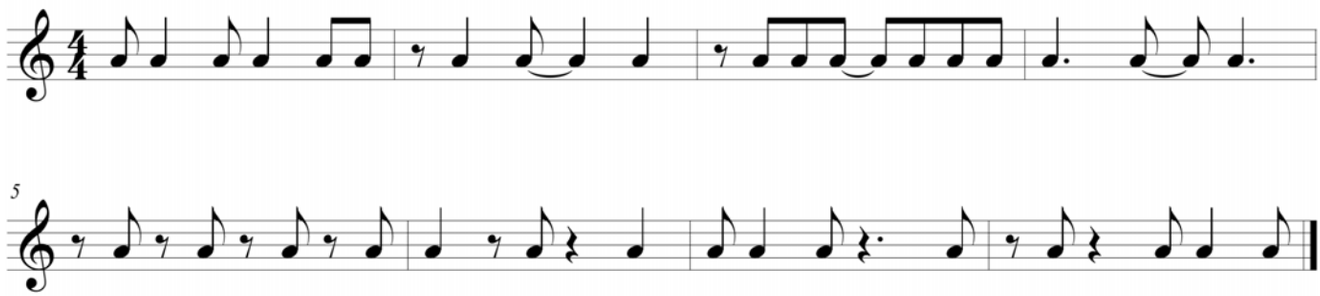
As covered previously, syncopation is a stress of the weak beats, or of unexpected subdivisions within a measure. At first this may seem to interrupt an otherwise steady flow, but in reality, syncopated rhythms bring rhythmic tension and musical "life force" into the music, which can elevate the listening experience to a large degree. Syncopated rhythms are an integral component for styles such as jazz, Latin and much of contemporary pop and rock music.

In the previous book we played syncopated rhythms simply by implementing ties. Here are examples which focus on more obvious and clear syncopated eighth-note rhythms:

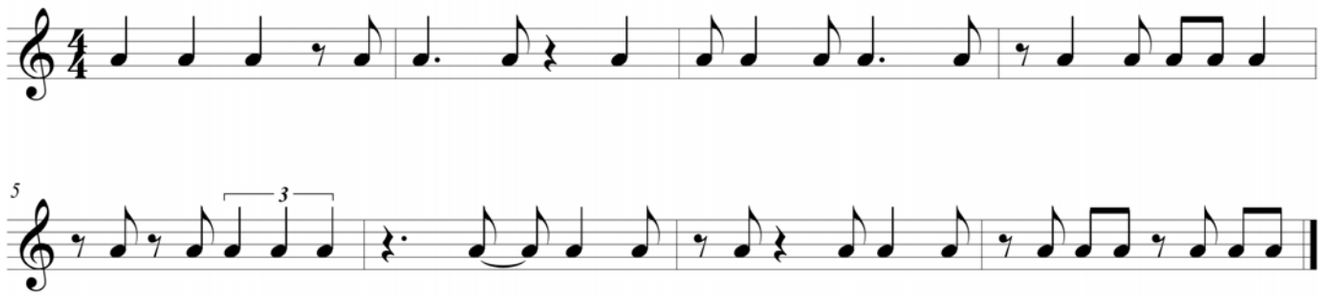
Ex. 1.13



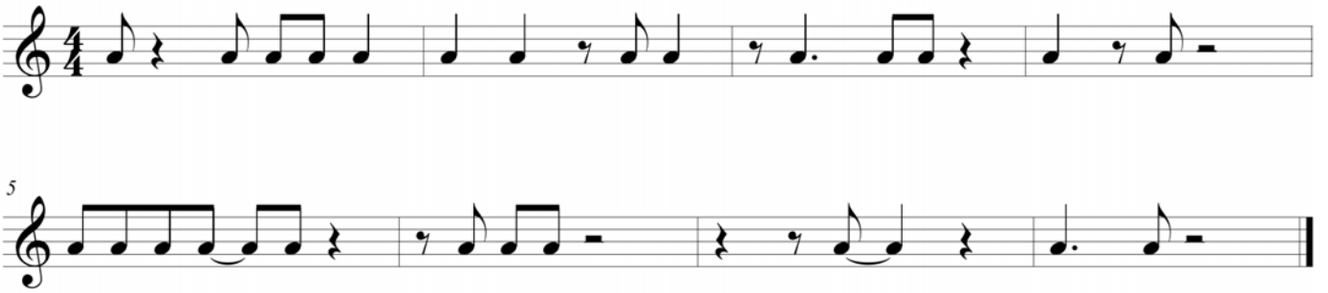
Ex. 1.14



Ex. 1.15

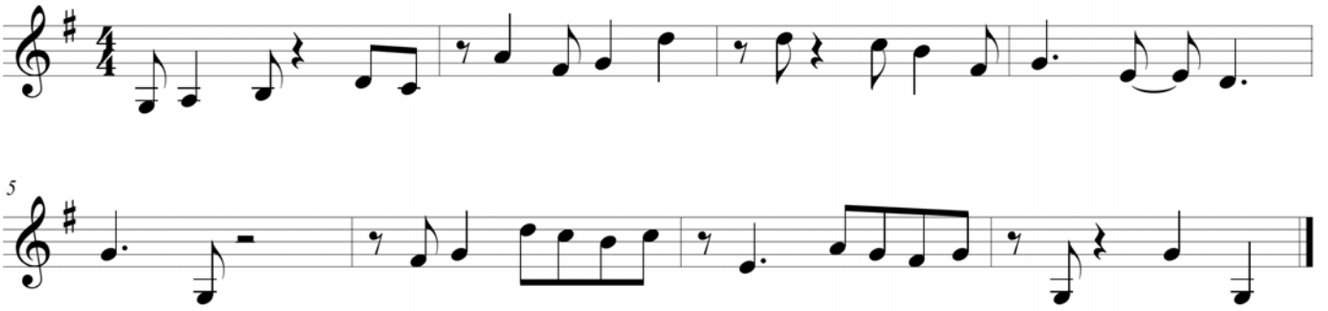


Ex. 1.16

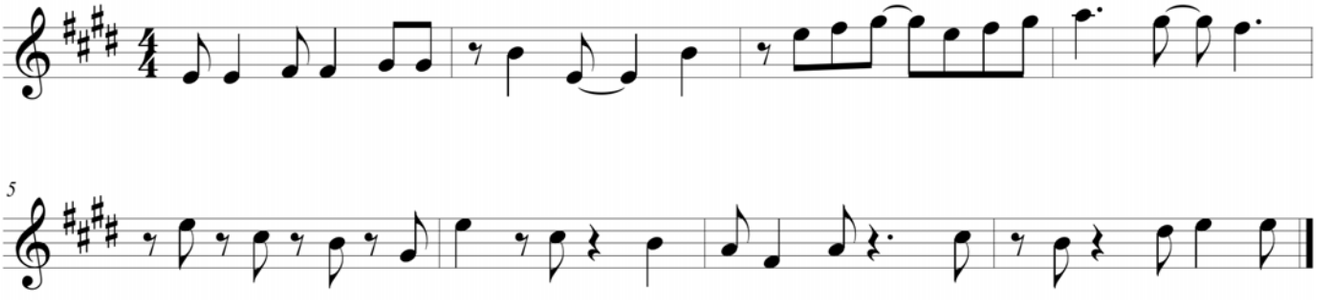


Here are melody examples which also incorporate heavily syncopated eighth-note rhythms:

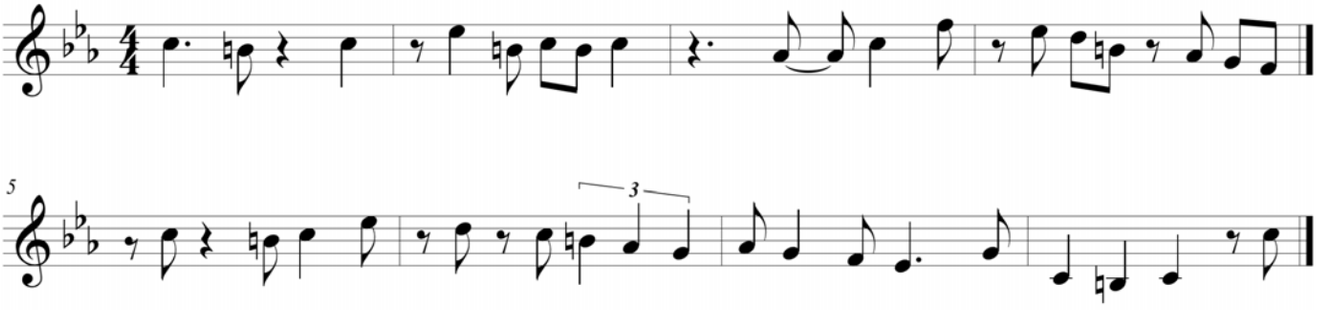
Ex. 1.17



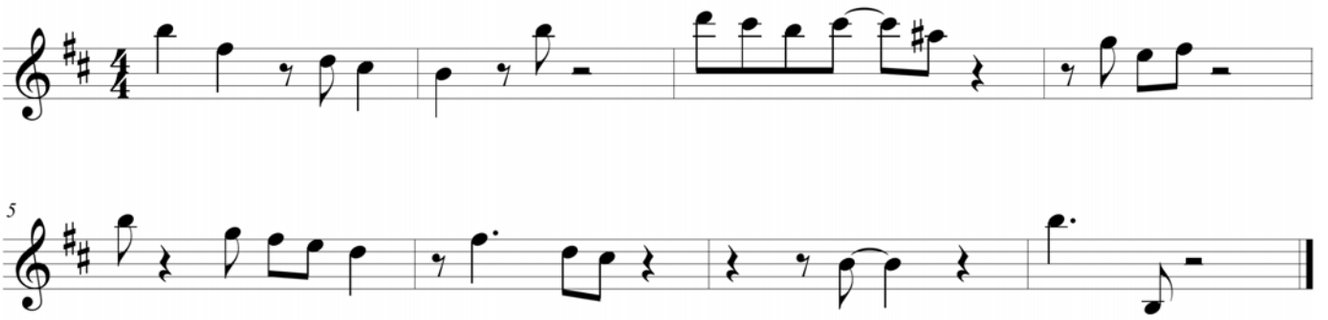
Ex. 1.18



Ex. 1.19

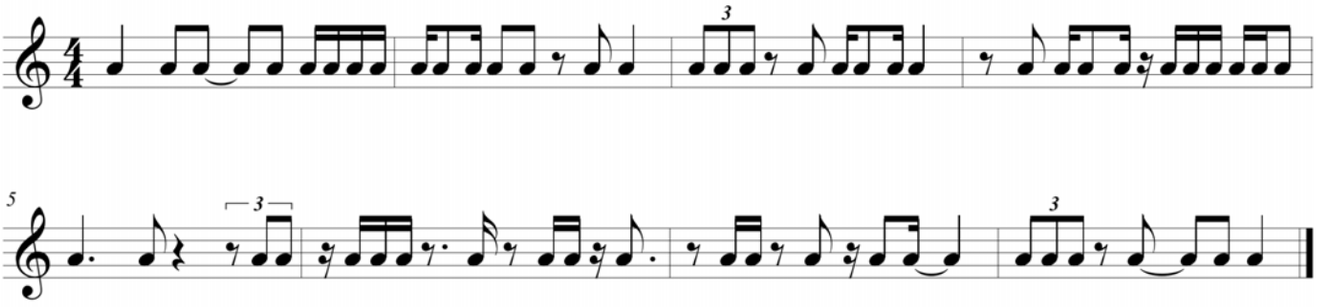


Ex. 1.20

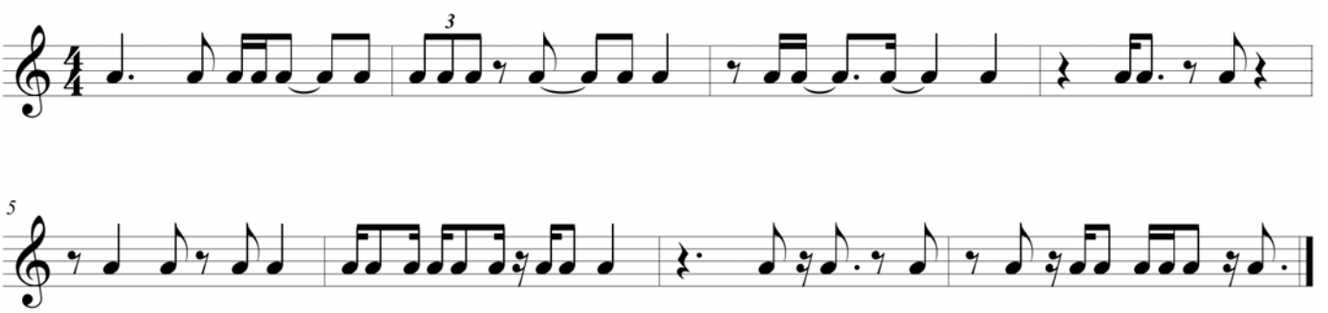
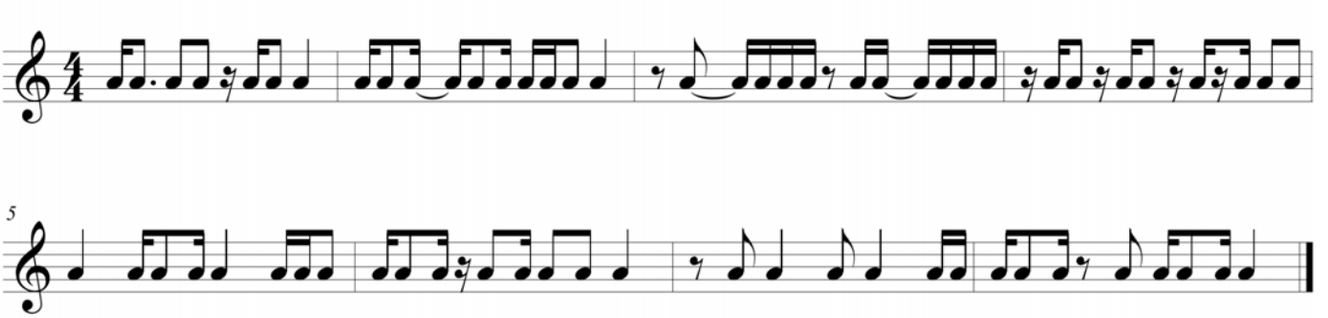


Reading syncopated 16th-note rhythms can be slightly more challenging, but follows the same basic principle as with eighth notes. Read through the following rhythm examples.

Ex. 1.21



Ex. 1.22



Ex. 1.23