LESSON 51

TRIPLETS AND SYNCOPATION

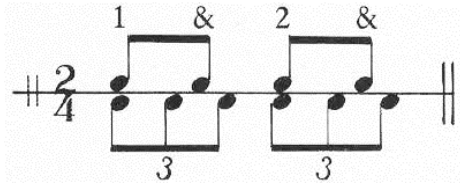
A **TRIPLET** is a group of three notes played inside another note-length that's been split rhythmically into three equal parts instead of two. Three notes are performed in the space normally allotted for two of the same kind of note. A triplet is identified by a small " 3" above or below its note beam, bracket, or slur.

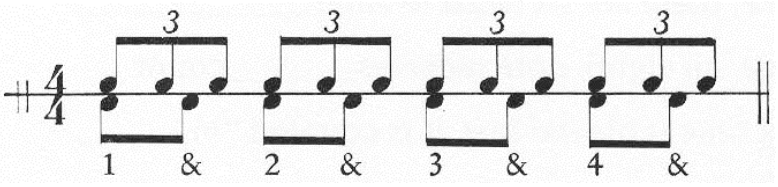
An **EIGHTH-NOTE TRIPLET** spans two eighth note beats or the length of a quarter-note.

A **QUARTER-NOTE TRIPLET** spans two quarter-note-beats or the length of a half-note.

A **HALF-NOTE TRIPLET** spans two half-note-beats or the length of a whole-note.

Two groups of eighth triplets fit in one measure of 2/4-time and four groups of eighth-triplets fit in one measure of 4/4-time.





SYNKOPATION

Stressed and unstressed beats alternate in four-quarter time; Beats 1 and 3 are always stressed, while beats 2 and 4 are regarded as unstressed.

If this sequence is interrupted, in that a note that is actually expected on beat 1 occurs already on beat 4 of the previous measure, then it is called syncopation.

1. Insert the bar lines into the following lines and write the beats under each measure. Then count the beats and clap the rhythms.