

DOWN PICK = ▢
UP PICK = V

IRISH JIG TRIPLETS

TRIPLETS ON BEATS 1 AND 4

IRISH TRIPLETS DIFFER FROM NORMAL TRIPLETS IN THAT THEY ARE RHYTHMICALLY FRONT LOADED. ON PAPER THESE TRIPLETS LOOK MORE LIKE TWO 16TH NOTES FOLLOWED BY AN 8TH NOTE.

The image shows two musical examples side-by-side. The left example, labeled "NOT THIS", shows a normal triplet of three eighth notes on a treble staff and a triplet of three eighth notes on a bass staff. The right example, labeled "THIS", shows an Irish triplet where the first two notes are beamed together and the third is separated, on both treble and bass staves. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8.

IN IRISH MUSIC WE USUALLY START TRIPLETS ON DOWNSTROKES AND ARTICULATE EVERY NOTE WITH THE PICK. TO ACCOMMODATE FOR THE EXTRA NOTE WE HAVE TO ADJUST OUR RIGHT HAND PATTERN AS WRITTEN BELOW.

The image shows musical notation for the right-hand pick pattern. The treble staff contains two triplets of eighth notes. Below the notes are pick patterns: ▢ V ▢ ▢ ▢ V ▢ ▢ for the first triplet and ▢ V ▢ ▢ ▢ V ▢ ▢ for the second. The bass staff shows a simple bass line with eighth notes. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8.

TRIPLET SCALE EXERCISE W/ TRIPLETS ON BEATS 1 AND 4:

The image shows a triplet scale exercise. The treble staff contains two triplets of eighth notes. Below the notes are pick patterns: ▢ V ▢ ▢ ▢ V ▢ ▢ for the first triplet and ▢ V ▢ ▢ ▢ V ▢ ▢ for the second. The bass staff shows a scale with fingerings: 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 for the first triplet and 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 for the second. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8.

The image shows a triplet scale exercise. The treble staff contains two triplets of eighth notes. Below the notes are pick patterns: ▢ V ▢ ▢ ▢ V ▢ ▢ for the first triplet and ▢ V ▢ ▢ ▢ V ▢ ▢ for the second. The bass staff shows a scale with fingerings: 4 4 4 4 5 5 5 5 for the first triplet and 4 4 4 4 2 2 2 2 for the second. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8.

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