

Counting & Pick Direction in 6/8 Time

In 4/4 time eighth notes are bracketed in groups of 2 and 4. In 6/8 time eighth notes are bracketed in groups of 3.

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There are two ways to count 6/8 time. You can count 1-6, or use the "one-and-a" method.

3

1 2 3 4 5 6 | 1 & a 2 & a

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There are four rhythm patterns in Coleraine's Jig, all made up of eighth notes and quarter notes.

5

1 & a 2 & a | 1 & a 2& a | 1& a 2& a | 1& a 2 & a

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Good pick direction increases efficiency and creates groove. A common 6/8 time picking pattern is the *down-up-down* pattern. To use the *down-up-down* pattern, play down-strokes on beats 1, 2, and "a", and up-strokes on "&". Below are examples, using the four rhythm patterns found in Coleraine's Jig.

9

1 & a 2 & a | 1 & a 2& a | 1& a 2& a | 1& a 2 & a

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