



What Is A Metronome? Do I Have To Use One?

A metronome is a device that produces a click at even intervals. You can set it to different speeds and practice playing to a steady, even pulse.

Using a metronome is very important in developing steady and even “time” - the most important skill a drummer should have. A metronome will help you learn to keep a consistent tempo so that you don’t speed up or slow down as you are playing. **No musician wants to play with a drummer who can’t play at an even tempo.**

How To Use A Metronome

The metronome produces a steady “click,” which marks a certain musical interval or subdivision. You can choose which interval / subdivision you want the “click” to play at. The most common options are quarter notes and eighth notes.

Quarter Note – This is the most common setting for metronomes. In 4/4 meter (the most common time signature), each click will represent one quarter note, with four clicks equaling a full measure. Each time you hear a click, you should count with it “1, 2, 3, 4.” (4 clicks = 4 counts)

Other Intervals / Subdivisions – Sometimes you will want to hear the smaller subdivisions within a beat to practice along to. A lot of digital metronomes can play a regular click, while also playing the smaller subdivisions, like eighth notes or sixteenth notes, for example.

Setting Metronome Tempo / Speed

The tempo or speed is typically indicated by “BPM” (beats per measure). Simply adjust the number to whatever speed you’d like. For beginners working on basic beats and snare exercises, 70 BPM is a great place to start.

Where Can I Get A Metronome?

While metronomes can be bought in a music store, these days the best and easiest option would be to download a metronome app for your tablet device or phone. Many choices are available for iOS and Android devices. Most choices start out free, but offer a few extra “bells and whistles” for only a few dollars – and are usually worth it! The extra features that will be available can make a huge difference during practice time!

