



What Speed Should I Play At?

The speed that the song is played at is called the TEMPO. The tempo of a song will be indicated on the sheet music, chord chart or may even be told to you by other musicians. If you are playing by yourself, you can choose whatever tempo you'd like.

How Is Tempo Displayed?

A lot of the time, the tempo will be shown as BPM, which stands for "Beats Per Minute" and is a numerical value that can be set on a metronome. Tempo may also be displayed as a quarter note. For example, if you see (quarter note = 75, or BPM = 75), set the metronome to 75 bpm. Each click you hear represents a quarter note and with each click, count along, "1, 2, 3, 4."

Keep It Steady

Once you have a tempo to play at, begin to count it out to yourself ("1, 2, 3, 4"). Once you have the count established, you can begin playing.

Just remember that your goal is to try and maintain a steady tempo without speeding up or slowing down. With training and practice, this will get easier.