



HOW TO "DOO DIT"
UNDERSTANDING THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
CLASSICAL AND JAZZ
ARTICULATIONS

JAZZ
COMMITTEE
PANEL

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- *Attendance QR Code Link*



INTERPRETATION OF ARTICULATION

CLASSICAL VS. JAZZ

	Accent	Heavy Attack		Heavy Attack <i>"front of note"</i>
	Legato	Full Value		Full Value
	Staccato	No Tongue Release		Short Tongue Release
	Marcato	Extra Heavy Accent		Shortened <i>"Back of the note"</i>

IN GENERAL, JAZZ ARTICULATIONS ARE MORE PRONOUNCED THAN THOSE USED IN ART MUSIC. THE TONGUE RELEASE IS OFTEN USED IN JAZZ TO DEFINE THE LENGTH OF SHORTER NOTES.



- Separated notes involve ending the note with a tongue stop. (**T** at the *end* of note)

JAZZ ARTICULATION CHEAT SHEET

(LETS AVOID STARTING ANY “T”)

“**Doo**” is used for long sounds that occur on downbeats. (-)

“**Dah**” is used for accented long sounds on downbeats or upbeats. (>)

“**Va**”, or “**ba**” is used on unaccented upbeats. (*doo va doo va; doo ba doo ba, etc*)

“**DaHt**” is used for accented short sounds on downbeats or upbeats. (^)

“**Dit**” is used for unaccented short notes. (.)

“**Dn**” is used for notes that are ghost or swallowed. These notes are often designated by an “**x**” on the staff in place of the note head or a note head in (**parentheses**).

“**Dow**” is used for notes that are followed by a fall (descending glissando to an undefined ending pitch). (\)



JAZZ ARTICULATION CHEAT SHEET (LETS AVOID STARTING ANY “T”)

“**Dwee**” is used for notes that are preceded by a scoop, a slide into a note. (/)



“**Doo-dle-da**” is used to articulate *eighth note triplets*.

“**Doo oht**” is used for a scoop after note (**DOIT**)



“**Doowwwwoo**” is used for a Bend



“**Dool-ya**” is used for turns and flips. (~)



- THE BEST WAY
TO TEACH
THESE
CONCEPTS IS TO
HAVE THE
PLAYERS SING.
MAKE SURE
THEY ARE ALL
SINGING THE
SAME SYLLABLE
SYSTEM
(" DOODLE
TONGUE ")

- **Keep in mind that the articulation symbols are not always written in the music (but always implied) so director/performer can interpret music in their own stylized way. Also note that accented short notes use a different syllable than unaccented short notes and are played slightly longer, or as one would say in the jazz world "phat." The notes are still short, but they have more weight and length.*



To swing, you have to hear.

(*triplets* are a “jazzers” friend!)

***All 8th notes are NOT
created equal.***

- THE BEST WAY TO ABSORB
THESE CONCEPTS IS TO
LISTEN. FIND GOOD
RECORDINGS OF GOOD JAZZ
MUSICIANS/BIG BANDS AND
LISTEN TO THE WAY THEY
ARTICULATE AND PHRASE

Articulation Examples:



DEE Dat Dat Dat Dat Dee dooDAH

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a sequence of notes: a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note with an accent (^), an eighth note with an accent (^), a quarter note with an accent (^), a quarter note with an accent (^), a quarter note, an eighth note, a quarter note, a half note, and a whole note. The notes are on the lines G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The lyrics 'DEE Dat Dat Dat Dat Dee dooDAH' are written below the staff, with 'DAH' under the final whole note.



DAH DAH DAH DAH

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing four quarter notes, each with an accent (>). The notes are on the lines G, A, B, C. The lyrics 'DAH DAH DAH DAH' are written below the staff.



doo DIT doo DIT doo DIT doo DIT

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a sequence of notes: a quarter note, an eighth note, a quarter note, a quarter rest, a quarter note, an eighth note, a quarter note, a quarter rest, a quarter note, an eighth note, a quarter note, a quarter rest, a quarter note, an eighth note, a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note. The notes are on the lines G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The lyrics 'doo DIT doo DIT doo DIT doo DIT' are written below the staff.



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A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a sequence of notes: a quarter note, an eighth note, a quarter note, a quarter rest, a quarter note, an eighth note, a quarter note, a quarter rest, a quarter note, an eighth note, a quarter note, a quarter rest, a quarter note, an eighth note, a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note. The notes are on the lines G, A, B, C, D, E, F, G. The lyrics 'doo DIT doo DIT doo DIT doo DIT' are written below the staff.





SEPARATED NOTES INVOLVE
ENDING THE NOTE WITH A
TONGUE STOP. (**T** AT THE
END OF NOTE)

Shortest to longest

DIT – used mostly for latin and crisp up
tempo swing because of the shortness

DOT – used in swing (mm=120)

DAHT – Slow swing (mm=60)

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