

Project for Further Study & Discussion

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Pick one of your favorite songs and listen closely to the rhythmic elements on the recording.

- Tap your foot or hand to the basic beat. Listen for the stronger, accented beats in order to find beat one. Then try counting along. Which sounds better, counting in groups of 4 or 3 ?
- Is there a backbeat ? If so, what instrument plays the backbeat ?
- Is there a prominent 8th- or 16th-note pulse moving faster than the basic beat ? If so, what instrument or musical part carries this faster pulse ?
- What is the overall mood of the song ? Describe how the rhythm helps contribute to this mood.