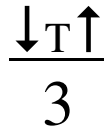


Triplets



A triplet jams three beats into one beat. Most often in Celtic music it's three eight-notes squished into the same time value as a quarter-note. To do this on the bodhran we use the upper end of the tipper. Here's how it works.

- Hit one down stroke
- Follow through, in the extreme so that the bottom of the tipper not only points at the floor but begins to point UP from the floor. The movement is easier if your wrist is curved and the tipper is positioned closer to the head.
 - This motion will force the top end of the tipper to strike the head.
 - DO NOT tilt the drum in an attempt to assist the top end strike.

Master this movement to produce TWO distinct sounds. The T symbol indicates that the top of the tipper is striking the drum. This strike is NOT a separate movement. It is a follow through of the down-strike.



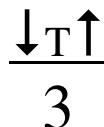
Once you have this single motion strike that produces two sounds, add the third strike.

The third strike is simply an up-strike.

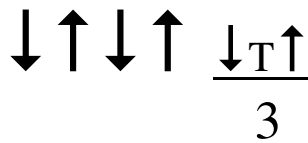


This pattern is the triplet. It may help you to get the rhythm if you say aloud the word "triplet". In three distinct syllables: Tri -pl - et.

This symbol combination explains the components of a triplet performed on the bodhran.



Exercise Play this pattern until the triplet sound becomes natural



It will take time to make the movement smooth and to build confidence. Stay with it. You'll probably find that speed can be a friend with the triplet. Triplets are easier to produce at a dance pace than at the necessarily slow pace at which they must be learned!

Once you have mastered the triplet, drop them into your playing where ever you feel like it. They often sound best as pick-up notes. That is those notes leading into the next section or repeat of the current section. Just be aware that too much is a bad thing. Use them sparingly in order to have the greatest affect.

Triplets are a great way to warm up on the drum. You can't play triplets unless your hand and wrist are relaxed, unless the tipper is held correctly, and the hand-tripper combination is properly position on the drum.

Rolls

A roll is simply back-to-back triplets.

A roll is particularly useful when combined with tonal movements of the interior hand. Start the roll at the top of the drum head with maximum pressure applied by the interior hand. Move the interior hand toward the 6 o'clock position and gradually slack off the tension. This creates a kind of waterfall effect on the drum. It's a standard riff in most bodhran solos.