

Adding a simple percussion accompaniment to a song

Golden Rule: Every instrument needs a job!

1. Listen to the song and tap along with the steady, regular repeated **pulse beats**. Identify where the 'strong' **first beat** of each bar falls, to help decide how the pulse beats are grouped (most commonly in 2s, 3s, or 4s). Pick out and mark (clap, tap, click) the **first beat of each bar**.

1 2 3 4 / 1 2 3 4... or 1 2 3 / 1 2 3...

'A New Place Called Home' and 'Farewell Calypso' are both grouped with **4 pulse beats** in each bar. Choose an instrument to play on Beat 1 that has a clearly identifiable sound, so that the first beat can always be heard.

2. Add a second instrument to play on **Beats 1 and 3**. Make sure this has a different tone (timbre) from your first instrument, so it can be easily distinguished aurally.

1 2 3 4 / 1 2 3 4 / ...

3. Try a third pattern, this time emphasising beats 2 and 4. To make it more interesting, divide one of the pulse beats into 2 shorter ($\frac{1}{2}$ beat) sounds.

1 2-and 3 4 / 1 2-and 3 4 / ...

4. Experiment with adding **ostinato** (repeated) patterns using instruments with contrasting timbres. The quickest way to do this is to chant the song lyrics and use rhythmic phrases from the song that aren't too long or complicated, so you can keep repeating them easily. Once you have chosen your ostinatos and practised chanting then playing them one by one on their own, then with the song, try layering them up, one on top of another, to create a more complex rhythmic accompaniment.

Ostinato 1 – 'Wind-rush'

Ostinato 2 – 'Til-b-ury'

Ostinato 3 – 'Find a new place called home.'

Ostinato 4 – 'Celebrate, nineteen forty-eight!'