

MTO 22.3 Examples: de Clercq, Measuring a Measure

(Note: audio, video, and other interactive examples are only available online)

http://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.16.22.3/mto.16.22.3.de_clercq.php

Example 1. Three readings of meter and bar lengths for “Norwegian Wood” (The Beatles, 1965)



I once had a girl, or should I say, she once had me.

I once had a girl, or should I say, she once had me.

I once had a girl, or should I say, she once had me.

Example 2. Kick and snare configuration for a standard rock drum beat



Table 1. Average tempos (measured in beats-per-minute [BPM]) for all songs in which 4/4 was determined to be the main meter, as found in three recent corpora of popular music

	Covach 2009	Burgoyne et al. 2011	Temperley & de Clercq, 2013
Number of songs in 4/4 (as percentage of total songs)	61 75.3%	509 93.2%	168 84.0%
Arithmetic mean BPM (standard deviation)	121.4 22.2	119.5 33.6	119.6 34.1
Median BPM	119.0	117.9	115.5
Geometric mean BPM	119.5	115.1	115.1
Arithmetic mean measure length	1.98 sec	2.01 sec	2.01 sec

Table 2. Average tempos (measured in beats-per-minute [BPM]) for all songs in which 6/8 was determined to be the main meter, as found in three recent corpora of pop/rock music

	Covach 2009	Burgoyne et al. 2011	Temperley & de Clercq, 2013
Number of songs in 6/8 (as percentage of total songs)	1 1.2%	5 0.9%	6 3.0%
Arithmetic mean BPM (standard deviation)	50.0 (n/a)	64.0 11.7	62.3 9.9
Median BPM	50.0	63.1	60.3
Geometric mean BPM	50.0	63.0	61.6
Arithmetic mean measure length	2.4 sec	1.88 sec	1.93 sec

Table 3. Durations in seconds of measures across the usable tempo scale (adapted from London 2012, 46 [Table 2.5])

Beat Rate (BPM)	Quadruple Measure	Triple Measure	Duple Measure
30	8.00	6.00	4.00
34	7.03	5.27	3.51
39	6.17	4.63	3.08
44	5.42	4.06	2.71
50	4.76	3.57	2.38
57	4.18	3.13	2.09
65	3.67	2.75	1.83
75	3.22	2.42	1.61
85	2.83	2.12	1.41
97	2.48	1.86	1.24
110	2.18	1.64	1.09
125	1.92	1.44	0.96
143	1.68	1.26	0.84
163	1.48	1.11	0.74
185	1.30	0.97	0.65
211	1.14	0.85	0.57
240	1.00	0.75	0.50

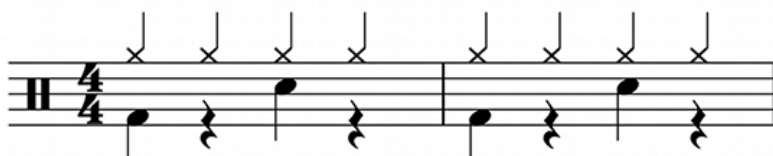
Example 3a. Kick and snare configuration for a standard rock drum beat



Example 3b. Double-time kick and snare pattern



Example 3c. Half-time kick and snare pattern



Example 4a. “Should I Stay or Should I Go” (The Clash, 1982), verse material

0:15

Vox

D G D D G D

Dar- lin',you've got to let me know, should I stay or should I go?— If you say that you are

Kick/
Snare

G F G D G D

mine, I'll be here 'til the end of time. So, you've got to let me

A D G D

know, should I stay or should I go?

Example 4b. “Should I Stay or Should I Go” (The Clash, 1982), chorus material

1:06

Vox

D G D D G D

Should I stay or should I go now? Should I stay or should I go now? If I go there will be

Kick/
Snare

G F G D G D

trou- ble, and if I stay it will be doub- le. So come on and let me

A

know

Example 5a. “Five Minutes to Midnight” (Boys Like Girls, 2006), chorus material

2:43

Vox

Kick/
Snare

Turn it up, five min utes_ to mid - night, com-ing home with

me to- night. I can't get e- nough, shak- in' me off, turn it up!

D A Bm G

Detailed description: This musical score is for the chorus material of 'Five Minutes to Midnight' by Boys Like Girls. It is in 4/4 time and D major. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1-4, with a time stamp of 2:43 at the beginning. The vocal line (Vox) starts with a half note D4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The lyrics 'Turn it up, five min utes_ to mid - night, com-ing home with' are aligned with these notes. The instrumental line (Kick/Snare) starts with a half rest, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The second system covers measures 5-8. The vocal line continues with a half note D4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The lyrics 'me to- night. I can't get e- nough, shak- in' me off, turn it up!' are aligned with these notes. The instrumental line continues with a half rest, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Chord symbols D, A, Bm, and G are placed above the vocal line at the start of measures 1, 3, 5, and 7 respectively.

Example 5b. “Five Minutes to Midnight” (Boys Like Girls, 2006), final chorus

3:07

Vox

Kick/
Snare

Turn it up, five min-utes_ to mid - night, com-ing home with

D A A#°

Detailed description: This musical score is for the final chorus of 'Five Minutes to Midnight' by Boys Like Girls. It is in 4/4 time and D major. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1-4, with a time stamp of 3:07 at the beginning. The vocal line (Vox) starts with a half note D4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The lyrics 'Turn it up, five min-utes_ to mid - night, com-ing home with' are aligned with these notes. The instrumental line (Kick/Snare) starts with a half rest, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The second system covers measures 5-8. The vocal line continues with a half note D4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. The lyrics 'me to- night. I can't get e- nough, shak- in' me off, turn it up!' are aligned with these notes. The instrumental line continues with a half rest, followed by a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note F#4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a quarter note E4. Chord symbols D, A, and A#° are placed above the vocal line at the start of measures 1, 3, and 7 respectively.

Example 6a. “Teardrops on My Guitar” (Taylor Swift, 2008), “pop” version, chorus

0:57

B $\flat$ F/A Gm E $\flat$

Vox

He's the rea-son for the tear drops on my gui-tar, the on-ly thing that keeps me wish-in' on a wish-in' star.

Kick/
Snare

B $\flat$ F/A Gm E $\flat$

He's the song in the car I keep sing-in', don't know why I do.

Example 6b. “Teardrops on My Guitar” (Taylor Swift, 2006), original version, chorus

1:07

B $\flat$ F/A Gm E $\flat$

Vox

He's the rea son for the tear drops on my gui tar, the on-ly thing that keeps me wish-in' on a wish-in' star.

Kick/
Snare

Example 7a. “Wrecking Ball” (Miley Cyrus, 2013), chorus material

0:40

F C Dm Bb

Vox

I came in like a wreck-ing ball, _____ I ne-ver hit so hard in love. All I want-ed was to

Kick/
Snare

F C Dm Bb

br-eak your walls, _____ all you ev-er did was wre-e - eck me.

Example 7b. “Wrecking Ball” (The Gregory Brothers, 2014), chorus material

0:30

D A Bm G

Vox

I came in like a wreck - ing ball, _____ I ne ver hit so hard in love. All I want ed was to

Snare

Bass

Example 8b. “When the Levee Breaks” (Led Zeppelin, 1971), 6-bar reading of opening vocal passage

1:23 F

Vox

If it keeps on ra-in in', lev-ee's goin' to break. If it...

Drums

keeps on ra-in in', lev-ee's goin' to break. When the

lev-ee breaks, have no place to stay.

Example 8c. “When the Levee Breaks” 12-bar blues reading of original song (Kansas City Joe and Memphis Minnie, 1929) mashed-up with Led Zeppelin drum beat

A

Vox

If it keeps on ra-in in', lev-ee's goin' to break. If it keeps

Drums

on rain-in', lev-ee's goin' to break. and the

wa-ter gon' come in, have no place to stay.

D A

E A

Example 9a. “Heartbreak Hotel” (Elvis Presley, 1956), main material

0:00

Well since my baby left me, Well I found a new place to dwell. Well it's down at the end of lonely street, that Heartbreak Hotel where I'll be.

I'll be so lonely, baby. Well I'm so lonely, I'll be so lonely, I could die.

Example 9b. “That’s All Right (Elvis Presley, 1954), main material

0:05

Well that's all right, mama, That's all right with you. That's all right, mama, just any way you do. Well that's all

right, that's all right. That's all right now, mama, any way you do. any way you do.

PHRASE EXP.

Example 10a. “Down to the River” (Buck Owens, 1962), verse

0:33

Vocal

Drums

G D

You said good-bye to me this mor - nin' and

D G

slow - ly walked out of my life. I

G C

don't know how I'll live with - out you; I

D G

on - ly know I've got-ta try.

Example 10b. “Cryin’ Time” (Buck Owens, 1964), verse

0:28

Vox

Now they say that ab-sence makes the heart grow fond - er and that

Drums

6/8

8/8

Ab Eb

tears are on - ly rain to make love grow. Well my love

Ab Db

for you could ne - ver grow no strong - er if I

Ab Eb Ab

live to be a hu - nd - red years old.

Example 10c. Shared voice-leading scheme for verse sections of “Down to the River” and “Cryin’ Time”
(Buck Owens)

musical score for Example 10c, showing a shared voice-leading scheme for the verse sections of “Down to the River” and “Cryin’ Time” by Buck Owens. The score is written for two staves (treble and bass) and includes measures 1 through 15. The treble staff features a melodic line with various intervals and a final cadence. The bass staff features a bass line with a similar intervallic structure. Roman numerals I, IV, V, and I are placed below the bass staff to indicate the harmonic progression. A dashed line connects the final note of the treble staff to the final note of the bass staff, illustrating the shared voice-leading scheme.

Example 11a. “Honey (I Miss You)” (Bobby Goldsboro, 1968), verse material

0:11 C Dm G Dm G

Vox See the tree, how big it's grown, but friend, it hasn't been too long, it wasn't big. I

Snare

Dm G Dm G C

laughed at her and she got mad, the first day that she planted it was just a twig..

Example 11b. “Gentle on My Mind” (Glen Campbell, 1967), verse material

1:28 Eb Fm

Vox Though the wheat fields and the clothes lines and the junk yards and the high-ways come be-tween us, and some

Snare

Fm Fm7 Bb Eb

other woman's cryin' to her moth-er 'cause she turned and I was gone.

Table 4. Form of “Hey, Good Lookin’” (Hank Williams, 1951)

Start Time	Bars	Section	Group
0:00	4	intro	AABA
0:07	8	A	
0:21	8	A	
0:34	8	B	
0:48	8	A	solo
1:01	8	solo (A)	
1:15	8	solo (A)	
1:29	8	solo (B)	
1:42	8	solo (A)	AABA
1:56	8	A	
2:10	8	A	
2:23	8	B	
2:37	8	A	

Example 12a. “Hey, Good Lookin’” (Hank Williams, 1951), AA sections

0:07

Say Hey, good look-in', what ya got cook-in'? How's
 a-bout cook-in' some thin' up with me?
 Hey, sweet ba-by, don't ya think may-be, we could
 find us a brand new rec-i-pe.

Example 12b. “Hey, Good Lookin’” (Hank Williams, 1951), BA sections

0:34

I got a hot-rod Ford and a two dol-lar bill, and I know a spot right o-ver the hill.
 There's so-da pop and the danc-in's free, so if you want to have fun come a long with me. Say
 Hey, good look-in', what ya got cook-in'? How's
 a-bout cook-in' some thin' up with me?

Example 13a. “Here’s a Quarter (Call Someone Who Cares)” (Travis Tritt, 1991), part 1

0:06 G C G

You say you were wrong, — to ev-er lea ve me a lone. — And now you're

G D

sor - ry, — you're lone - some and scared. — And you

G C G

say you'd be — hap - py — if you could just — come back home. Well here's a

G D G

quart-er — call some - one — who cares.

Example 13b. “Here’s a Quarter (Call Someone Who Cares)” (Travis Tritt, 1991), part 2

0:32 C G

Vox

Kick/
Snare

Call some one_ who'll list-en_ and might give a_ damn. May-be

one of_ your_ sor-did_ af-fairs_ But don't you

come a-round here hand_ in' me none of_ your lines_ Here's a

quart-er_ call some - one_ who cares.

G D G G⁷/B C G

Table 5. Comparison of section lengths between “Hey, Good Lookin’” (Hank Williams, 1951) and “Here’s a Quarter (Call Someone Who Cares)” (Travis Tritt, 1991)

Form		“Hey, Good Lookin’”			“Here’s a Quarter”		
Group	Section	Start (min:sec)	Length (sec)	Length (bars)	Start (min:sec)	Length (sec)	Length (bars)
	intro	0:00	6.8	4	0:00	6.4	4
AABA	A	0:07	13.5	8	0:06	12.9	8
	A	0:21	13.5	8	0:19	12.9	8
	B	0:34	13.5	8	0:32	12.9	8
	A	0:48	13.5	8	0:44	12.9	8
	solo	1:01	54.1	32	0:57	25.7	16
AABA	A	1:56	13.5	8	1:23	12.9	8
	A	2:10	13.5	8	1:36	12.9	8
	B	2:23	13.5	8	1:49	12.9	8
	A	2:37	13.5	8	2:01	12.9	8

Example 14. “He Stopped Loving Her Today” (George Jones, 1980)

0:00

Vox

Example 16a. “Sitting on Top of the World” (Grateful Dead, 1967)

Vox

Kick/
Snare

A D

Miss-is-sip-pi_ Ri ver, so big and wide, blone- haired woman_ on the oth-er_ side. But now_she's

A E A D C

gone, gone gone, and I don't worry, 'cause_ I'm sit-tin' on top of the world_

Example 16b. “Sittin’ on Top of the World” (Cream, 1968)

0:48

Vox

Drums

G C

One sum-mer day, she went a - way. Gone and left me, she's gone to stay. She's

G D (N. C.) G

gone, I don't wor-ry_ I'm sit - tin' on top of the world_