



MTO 28.4 Examples: Geary, Analyzing the Beat in Metrically Consonant Popular Songs

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

<https://www.mtosmt.org/issues/mto.22.28.4/mto.22.28.4.geary.php>

Example 1. The standard rock and four-on-the-floor drum patterns

Standard Rock Drum Pattern

Hi-Hat: x x x x x x x x
Snare: |:: |:: |:: |::
Bass: |:: |:: |:: |::
Bass-Snare: • • • •

Four-On-The-Floor Drum Pattern

Bass: |:: |:: |:: |::
Bass: • • • •

Example 2. “Billie Jean” (Michael Jackson, 1982), Introduction

♩ = 117

③ Synthesizer

② Bass

① Drums

Drum Pattern Layer

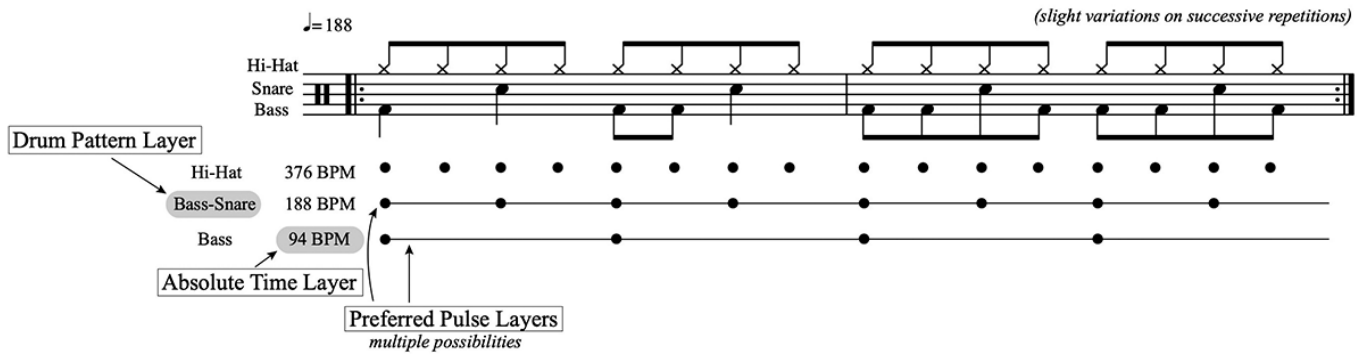
Hi-Hat 234 BPM

Bass-Snare 117 BPM

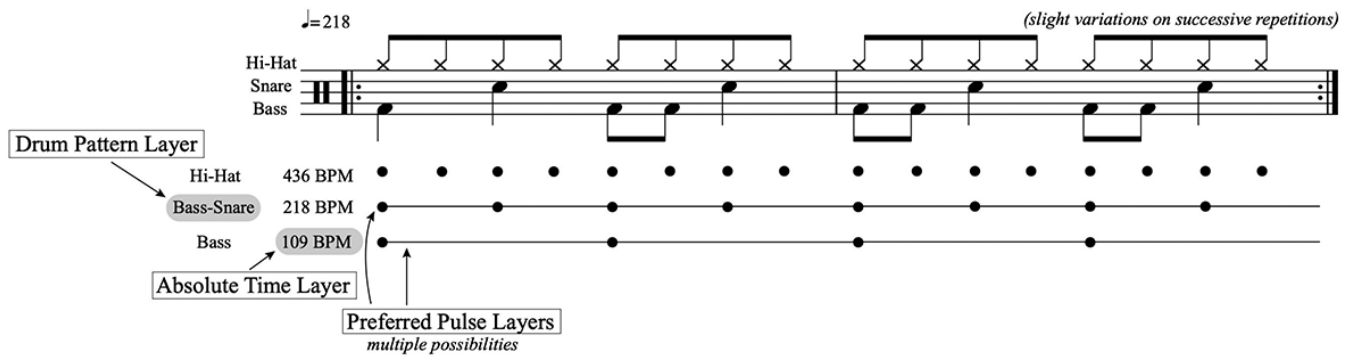
Bass 58.5 BPM

Absolute Time Layer

Example 3. "86" (Green Day, 1995), Verse 1



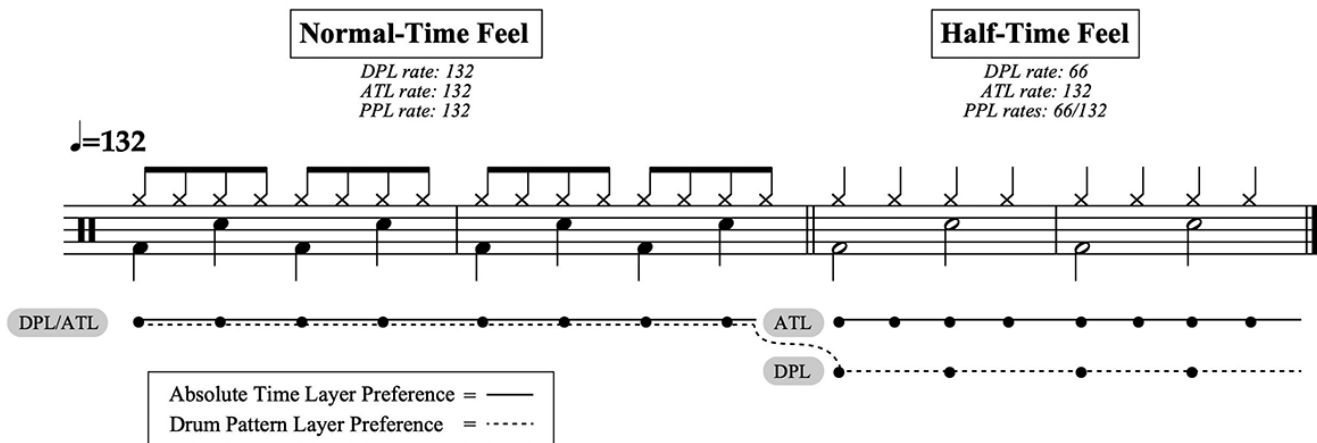
Example 4. "Dammit" (Blink 182, 1997), Verse 1



Example 5. Popular songs with a quadruple simple meter and standard rock drum pattern

Artist	Song (Year)	Drum Pattern Layer Rate (BPM)
Michael Jackson	"Human Nature" (1982)	46
Everything Everything	"The Peaks" (2013)	57
Celine Dion	"All By Myself" (1996)	60
The Impressions	"People Get Ready" (1965)	72
Beyoncé	"Halo" (2008)	80
Katy Perry	"Roar" (2013)	90
Lynyrd Skynyrd	"Sweet Home Alabama" (1974)	98
Gnarls Barkley	"Crazy" (2006)	112
Bon Jovi	"It's My Life" (2000)	120
Kelly Clarkson	"Since You've Been Gone" (2004)	131
Van Halen	"You Really Got Me" (1978)	138
Van Morrison	"Brown Eyed Girl" (1967)	149
Jerry Lee Lewis	"Great Balls of Fire" (1958)	160
Panic! At The Disco	"I Write Sins Not Tragedies" (2005)	170
Little Richard	"Tutti Frutti" (1956)	185
The White Stripes	"Fell In Love With A Girl" (2001)	190
Paramore	"Fences" (2007)	202
Jonathan Coulton	"Sticking It to Myself" (2011)	208
Willie Nelson	"On The Road Again" (1980)	222
Metallica	"Killing Time" (1991)	233

Example 6. Normal-time feel to half-time feel groove change



Example 7. "Him and I" (G-Eazy and Halsey, 2017), Postchorus 2 to Bridge

Postchorus 2 *DPL rate: 88*
ATL rate: 88
PPL rate: 88

♩=88 Am G Dm Em

Melody

Oh oh In the end it's him and I him and I

Drums

5 Am G Dm Em

Oh oh In the end it's him and I

Bridge *DPL rate: 44*
ATL rate: 88
PPL rates: 44/88

9 Am G

my heart hope to die to you I've never lied for you I'd take a life it's him and I and I swear... 'Til the end I'm a ride with you

Cross

12 Dm

mob and get money get high with you. Cross my heart hope to die this is our ride or die

14 Em

You can con-fide in me there's not no hi-ding I swear... Stay so-lid ne-ver lie to you swear most like ly I'm a die with you.

The image displays a musical score for the song "Him and I" by G-Eazy and Halsey, specifically the Postchorus 2 and Bridge sections. The score is written for Melody (treble clef) and Drums (drum set notation). The tempo is marked as 88 beats per minute. The key signature is A minor (Am). The Postchorus 2 section (measures 1-4) features a melody with lyrics "Oh oh In the end it's him and I him and I" and a drum pattern of eighth notes. The Bridge section (measures 5-14) features a melody with lyrics "my heart hope to die to you I've never lied for you I'd take a life it's him and I and I swear... 'Til the end I'm a ride with you" and a drum pattern of eighth notes. The score includes chord changes (Am, G, Dm, Em) and dynamic markings (DPL, ATL, PPL rates). The lyrics are written below the melody line, and the drum notation is shown below the melody line.

Example 8. “Love or Let Me Be Lonely” (Friends of Distinction, 1970)

SECTION:	Intro	Verse 1	Chorus 1	Transition 1	Verse 2	Chorus 2	Transition 2	Verse 3 (instrumental)	Chorus 3	Transition 3	Outro	
# BARS:	1.5	8	8	2	8	8	4	8	8	4	20	(fade out)
DRUM FEEL:		NT	DT	NT	NT	DT	NT	NT	DT	NT	NT	

Verse 1 DPL rate: 96
ATL rate: 96
PPL rate: 96

Melody ♩=96

C# D#/C# D#m/C# C#

Love, or let me be lone - ly part - time love I can find any day.

Drums

Chorus 1 DPL rate: 192
ATL rate: 96
PPL rates: 96/192

♩=96

A C#m D Bm C#m F#m

I can live with - out love if I want - ed to in this lone - ly room. But I don't want to so I leave it up to you to wash a - way my gloom.

Example 9. “Slow Down” (Selena Gomez, 2013)

SECTION:	Intro	Verse 1	Prechorus 1	Chorus 1	Dance Chorus 1	Verse 2	Prechorus 2	Chorus 2	Dance Chorus 2	Bridge			Chorus 3	Dance Chorus 3
# BARS:	4	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	(fall) 8	(breakdown) 8	(rise) 8	8	8
DRUM FEEL:		NT	NT	HT	NT	NT	NT	HT	NT	NT	HT	NT	NT	NT

Prechorus 1 DPL rate: 128
ATL rate: 128
PPL rate: 128

Chorus 1 DPL rate: 64
ATL rate: 128
PPL rates: 64/128

Dance Chorus 1 DPL rate: 128
ATL rate: 128
PPL rate: 128

Bridge DPL rate: 128
ATL rate: 128
PPL rate: 128

fall

C#m A G# C#m

Breathe me in breathe me out, You know I'm read-y for it, for it, yeah.

breakdown

DPL rate: 64
ATL rate: 128
PPL rates: 64/128

C#m A E B

Breathe me in breathe me out, The mu sic's got me go- ing, Breathe me in breathe me out, No stopp- ing 'til the morn- ing

Chorus 3 *DPL rate: 128*
ATL rate: 128
PPL rate: 128

C#m A E B

I just wan-na feel your bod-y right next to mine all night long—ba-by slow down the song

Example 10. Normal-time feel to normal-time+half-time feel groove change

Normal-Time Feel

DPL rate: 132
ATL rate: 132
PPL rate: 132

Normal-Time + Half-Time Feel

DPL rates: 66/132
ATL rate: 132
PPL rates: 66/132

$\text{♩} = 132$

Absolute Time Layer Preference = ———

Drum Pattern Layer Preference = - - - - -

Example 11. “Symphony” (Clean Bandit featuring Zara Larsson, 2018), Prechorus 1 to Chorus 1

Prechorus 1

DPL rate: 61.5
ATL rate: 123
PPL rates: 61.5/123

$\text{♩} = 123$

A $\flat$ Cm Gm A $\flat$

Melody

And now your song is on re - peat and I'm danc - ing on to your heart - beat. And when you're gone

Drums

(woodblock)

*

DPL rates: 61.5/123
ATL rate: 123
PPL rates: 61.5/123

5

Cm B $\flat$

— I feel in - com - plete so if you want the truth I just wan - na be part of your

(snaps) (snare)

Chorus 1

DPL rate: 123
ATL rate: 123
PPL rates: 123

9

A $\flat$ B $\flat$ Cm Gm A $\flat$

sym - pho - ny. Will you hold me tight and not let go?