



Paul Kowert

Using the Metronome

In this lesson, Paul Kowert gives us insights into how he uses a metronome to illuminate ideas and perspectives about a folk tune. These skills and strategies are completely transferable to other genres of music and aspects of playing.



First, Paul sets the metronome to click on **every beat**. This is a very basic but extremely helpful metronome use!

Next Paul sets the metronome to click less often, such as **one beat per measure**. This puts more responsibility on the player to consider their own pulse and perception of time. Ask yourself: Am I really lining up the first beat of every bar with the click of the metronome?

Paul then reduces the rate even further, clicking only once **every three measures**! This really brings home the message about pulse, and tests if you truly have the tempo of a piece of music internalized.

Another trick with the metronome is to set it to click on beats other than the first beat. Paul uses beat 4 as an example of this. In his demonstration, he finds that he was consistently playing a little faster (ahead of the beat) on the top string. As a smaller string, it is easier to play pizzicato. With this new-found knowledge he can adjust his approach, and make sure to not rush while playing on the top string.

When working with a metronome, it's important to keep a positive attitude. You want to feel like it's a band-mate that you are playing alongside and aligning with, rather than a taskmaster whipping you into the right place and timing.



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Thank you!