

# Rudimentary, My Dear Watson

## Exploring the Rudiments on the Hammered Dulcimer

### Introduction:

Since the hammered dulcimer is a percussion instrument, it makes a lot of sense to approach it as such. We will discuss basic rudiments including the paradiddle. We will encourage counting out measures. We will talk about time signatures. We will also discuss syncopation. We will then learn the Irish Hornpipe “Off to California” and add some Syncopation to it.

### Basic Rudiments

- Percussive Arts Society forty essential rudiments  
<http://www.pas.org/resources/rudiments/rudiments.html>
- Alternate right and left hand
- Counting the beat out loud – “one and two and three and four and”
- Use a metronome!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Keep it even
- Playing a basic single stroke roll – R L R L R L R L
- Playing a double stroke roll – R R L L R R L L
- Paradiddle – “down up tap tap down up tap tap” - R L R R L R L L
- Alternating Base
- A little about time signatures
- Approaching tunes using rudiments

### Syncopation

- Missing beat syncopation
- Accenting a beat
- Applying this to your music
- Adding syncopation to a tune: “Off to California”  
<http://www.oldmusicproject.com/Sheet-1601-1700/1628-OffToCalifornia1st.gif>
- Syncopation example from Wikipedia
  - Shifted by an [eighth note](#) (or quaver):

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syncopation>



**Figure 1: Simplified Missing Beat Syncopation example**

Count it out! Beats to play in bold:

**ONE AND** two **AND** three **AND** four **AND** ONE

## About The Author:

Cliff Cole purchased his first hammered dulcimer in 1985, from Sam Rizzetta. At the time he was playing drums in a blues band. Prior to taking up the dulcimer, he studied drums and percussion for ten years. Cliff has played in numerous rock, blues, jazz, zydeco and folk ensembles since the age of fifteen. Folk instruments are where the heart is...

Cliff plays the hammered dulcimer in the family folk group "DayBreak," which has been together since 1989. They have made several recordings, including "Lost Cave" which was recorded live inside of Lost River Caverns in Hellertown, "Little Steps", and "Autumn Calling," which features many of Cliff's original tunes. They also have produced two Christmas CD's one named "Unity; Unique Music for Christmas" and a live Holiday Concert recorded in December of 2002.

DayBreak's music is available on CD-Baby, iTunes and many other digital download stores found on the web.

Cliff used to play plays gigs with his lovely daughter, Emily Rose under the name of Glass Rose's. Emily has a strong, beautiful voice, which blends nicely with the dulcimer and guitar. They released a CD named Falling Wings. The CD feature's Emily's voice and some of her original tunes. Emily is now off too college and no longer has time to play with her dad...

Cliff's hammered dulcimer was made by James Jones. The full sized 2/16/18/7 instrument covers four octaves and has dampening pedal. For more information about James Jones instruments go to his web site: <http://www.jamesjonesinstruments.com>

Cliff lives with his lovely wife, Pamela, in Quakertown, Pennsylvania. He works as a hardware test engineer for the Q-Logic Corporation, which is located in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania.

### Contact Cliff at:

Cliff Cole  
2440 Schukraft Road  
Quakertown, PA 18951  
**215-453-1722**

<http://www.daybreakfolk.com/>

For "DayBreak" CD's tapes and bookings contact:

Cliff Cole – **215-453-1722**([cliffcole@enter.net](mailto:cliffcole@enter.net))

Or Rob and Anna Lisa Yoder – 215-538-5280

### ***This document can be downloaded from:***

<http://www.daybreakfolk.com/CliffCole.htm>