

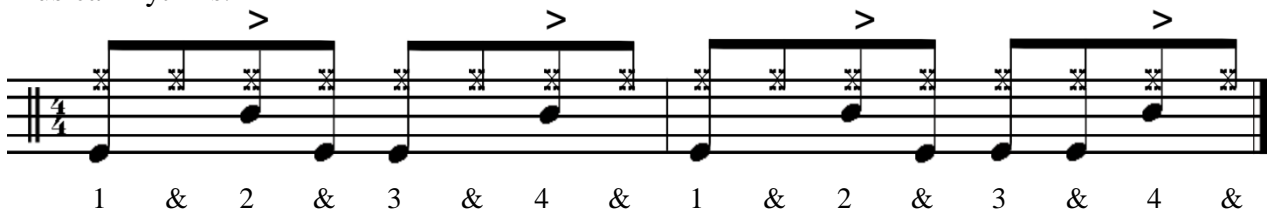
Syncopation

By: David A. Sargent

Syncopate: verb; past tense: syncopated; past participle: syncopated

In Music: displace the beats or accents in (music or a rhythm) so that strong beats become weak and vice versa.

So instead of the down beat getting an accent the upbeat gets the accent. This is true of all musical rhythms.

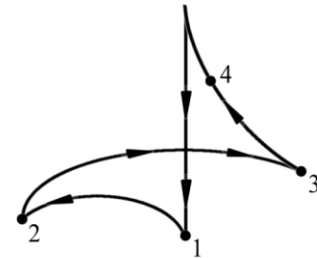


The Following is From: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beat_\(music\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beat_(music))

Downbeat and Upbeat

Conducting Pattern in 4/4

The downbeat is the first beat of the bar, i.e. number 1. The upbeat is the last beat in the previous bar which immediately precedes, and hence **anticipates**, the downbeat. Both terms correspond to the direction taken by the hand of a conductor.



An anticipatory note or succession of notes occurring before the first barline of a piece is sometimes referred to as an upbeat figure, section or phrase. Alternative expressions include "pickup" and "anacrusis" (the latter ultimately from Greek *ana* ["up towards"] and *krousis* ["strike"/"impact"] through French *anacrouse*). The latter term was borrowed from the field of poetry, in which it refers to one or more unstressed extrametrical syllables at the beginning of a line.

On-beat and Off-beat

Off-beat or **backbeat** pattern, popular on snare drum.

"Skank" guitar rhythm. Often referred to as "upbeats", in parallel with upstrokes.

In music that progresses regularly in 4/4 time, counted as "1 2 3 4, 1 2 3 4...", the first beat of the bar (downbeat) is usually the strongest accent in the melody and the likeliest place for a chord change, the third is the next strongest: these are "on" beats. The second and fourth are weaker; the "off-beats". Subdivisions (like eighth notes) that fall between the pulse beats are even weaker and these, if used frequently in a rhythm, can also make it "off-beat".

The effect can be easily simulated by evenly and repeatedly counting to four. As a background against which to compare these various rhythms a bass drum strike on the downbeat and a constant eighth note subdivision on ride cymbal have been added, which would be counted as follows (bold denotes a stressed beat): **1** 2 3 4 **1** 2 3 4 the stress here on the "on" beat. **1** 2 **3** 4 **1** 2 **3** 4 But one may syncopate that pattern and alternately stress the odd and even beats, respectively: 1 2 3 **4** 1 2 3 **4** here the **stress** is on the "unexpected" or syncopated beat.

So "off-beat" is a musical term, commonly applied to syncopation that **emphasizes** the weak even beats of a bar, as opposed to the usual on-beat. This is a fundamental technique of **African polyrhythm** that transferred to **popular western music**. According to Grove Music, the "Offbeat is often where the downbeat is replaced by a rest or is tied over from the preceding bar". The downbeat can never be the off-beat because it is the strongest beat in 4 4 time. Certain genres tend to **emphasize** the off-beat, where **this is a defining characteristic of rock'n'roll** and Ska music.

Other beat types are Backbeat, Cross-beat & Hyperbeat.

Backbeat that is a **syncopated accentuation** on the "off" beat. In a simple 4 4 rhythm these are beats 2 and 4.

Cross-beat - A rhythm in which the regular pattern of accents of the prevailing meter is contradicted by a conflicting pattern and not merely a momentary displacement that leaves the prevailing meter fundamentally unchallenged.

Hyperbeat - is one unit of hypermeter, generally a measure. "Hypermeter is meter, with all its inherent characteristics, at the level where measures act as beats.

Related Concepts:

Tatum refers to a subdivision of a beat which represents the "time division that most highly coincides with note onsets".

Afterbeat refers to a percussion style where a strong accent is sounded on the second, third and fourth beats of the bar, following the downbeat.

In Reggae music, the term **One Drop** reflects the complete de-emphasis (to the point of silence) of the first beat in the cycle.

My Personal Experience as a Percussionist and Drummer for over 45 years:

All music has all the beats in the measure; even the syncopated beats. This is not a bad thing, however what is important to get is which beat is stressed or emphasized. While Marching Music generally accents the downbeat – rock and roll accents the upbeat. This also is shown in the Bible: Proverbs 16:18, "**Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**" So bad music will **emphasize** the upbeat and be full of pride; while good music will emphasize the downbeat and is humble: 1 Peter 5:6, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:" Now about the marching style of music vs. the rock and roll styles. The **true Rock** is Jesus Christ; and the **true Christian Rock** is Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:1-5, “Thou therefore, my son, **be strong** in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to **faithful men**, who shall be able to teach others also. Thou therefore **endure hardness**, as a good **soldier** of Jesus Christ. No man that **warreth** entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a **soldier**. And if a man also **strive** for **masteries**, yet is he not **crowned**, except he **strive** lawfully.” There is nothing about rock and roll music that typifies these verses. The music style of the hymnals are for the most part marches and this is why. It is because we are to be soldiers in the Lord’s Army.

Now when you have a name like Sargent you tend to be a little bit militant in things you do for some reason. Fact is the Old English spelling of this name is in the Bible: Acts 16:35-39, “And when it was day, the magistrates sent the **serjeants**, saying, Let those men go. And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace. But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out. And the **serjeants** told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans. And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city.” This rank was and still is between the magistrates or officers and enlistees as in this case the keeper of the prison. This rank is a translation and is the Old English spelling of the namesake. Why is this important? Proverbs 22:1, “**A good name** is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.”

Music is important and good music is vitally important. Discernment is lacking in the day and age in which we are living, because people for the most part want what they want no matter what the Bible says. They judge things based on what makes them feel good and NOT on what God thinks about them. Deuteronomy 32:31-33, “For **their rock is not as our Rock**, even our enemies themselves being judges. For **their vine is of the vine of Sodom**, and of the fields of **Gomorrah**: their grapes are **grapes of gall**, their **clusters are bitter**: Their **wine is the poison of dragons**, and the **cruel venom of asps**.” Who is our Rock? Deuteronomy 32:4, “**He is the Rock**, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a **God** of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.” And Deuteronomy 32:18, “Of **the Rock** that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten **God** that formed thee.” When you call a music Rock, you are making that your god! 2 Samuel 22:32, “For **who is God**, save **the LORD**? and **who is a rock**, save **our God**?” Someone was up to no good when they came up with that name to place it on a music genre. Someone has made an idol out of music.

1. The beat is all wrong **emphasizing** the syncopated upbeat instead of the downbeat.
2. It **exalts pride** and **arrogance** that will be abased.
3. The name Rock Music makes it **an idol god** NOT like God Almighty.

“And they **remembered that God was their rock**, and **the high God their redeemer**.” Psalms 78:35

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