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20 Reasons Why You Should Use A Metronome

As I've worked more as a professional musician, I've grown to appreciate just how important learning to

play with a metronome can be. Here's my top 20 reasons to use a metronome:

20. It improves your rhythm

19. It makes your practicing more consistent

18. It forces you to listen to something other than your own playing

17. It's a qualitative way to track your improvement over time

16. It makes you aware of timing issues throughout the song

15. It helps you stick with a drummer

14. It makes you aware of playing songs faster than the songs intended to be played

13. It simplifies challenging rhythms

12. It forces you to work up a tempo sections in a song to the proper meter

11. It allows you to play with backing tracks live

10. It helps you do multi-take recording in the studio

9. With the proper software, it allows you to make real-time transcriptions of your music
8. It helps you stay with a band
7. It can help you master obscure rhythms
6. When used in a band, it can make everyone more consistent rhythmically
5. If you tap along with it, you can actually practice the rhythm of your songs without your instrument
4. It keeps you from slowing down when you play quiet sections in your song
3. It keeps you from speeding up during loud sections in your song
2. It makes you confident enough rhythmically to lead other musicians, and keep them on the beat
1. It helps you not suck

Now get out there, [grab one for your smartphone](#) or [buy one](#), and get started improving today!



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Andre Gaskins about 3 days ago

Regarding #18: Why would you ever want to listen to something OTHER than your own playing when practicing? That seems an odd bit of reasoning, at best, or else something that could use some re-wording. Please further explain, or re-word that one. Musicians of all levels should never be encouraged to not listen to their own playing under any circumstances, especially while practicing!



Mike about 2 weeks ago

Eric,
Number one implies that if a song speeds up a little, then someone in the band sucks, or the entire band sucks. Having been a professional drummer for over 40 years, I find it's easier to go with the flow than to try and fight it, and as long as it's not critical, it's really no big deal!
As for number 14, I haven't heard too many bands live that play songs at the original tempo....and I'm not talking about just local bands, I'm talking about Earth,Wind & Fire doing songs like Shining Star way faster than the record.....does that make them suck????? and if so...then they were sucking all the way to the bank!



Sarah B. about 2 weeks ago

I love #18. Never thought of it that way before!!!



Terrance Church about 3 weeks ago

Eric, I agree completely. Your "20 Reasons" are spot on! If you want to look like a business professional, wear a suit and tie; if you want to sound like a professional musician, learn to play in time.



Keith Sorensen about 3 weeks ago

1 - Ha! Way to put it simply. Amen!



Penny Smith about 3 weeks ago

The app is free. No reason not to have one anymore.

ERIC BARFIELD

MUSICIAN | PIANIST | TEACHER

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Eric Barfield is a full time musician, composer and teacher based in the midwest. His career has included his music being featured in major film releases and commercials, touring nationally with the now disbanded rock group, Watching Judas, and working in praise and worship at the 12,000 member mega-church, Grace Church. Eric currently lives with his beautiful wife, Sarah, on the bluffs overlooking the Missouri River, just outside of St. Louis, MO.

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